

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1866
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2003
SUGAR RELEASE MECHANISM
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the new norms/rules governing sugar release mechanism have come into force;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the total number of buyers/sellers who have flouted the rules as on date and have been booked;
- (d) the action taken against them; and
- (e) the extent to which the Government's action has helped the sugar management crisis?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a),(b),(c),(d)&(e): The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 has been amended in June 2003 through the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2003 (37 of 2003) with a view, inter alia, to strengthen the 'Regulated Release' mechanism governing the supply of levy free sugar. The powers conferred on the Central Government by the said Amendment were exercised for the release of monthly quota for July, 2003.

2. It is envisaged that through stabilization of the market prices of levy-free sugar, the capacity of the sugar mills to pay cane price dues of the sugarcane growers would also improve.