

Sugarcane crushing season to commence from 8th-15th November in all sugar mills of state:
Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa

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During past decade, crushing work sometimes began in mid-December

Why didn't you protest during previous 10 years, Cooperation Minister's poser to those protesting

Chandigarh, November 4:

The Cooperation Minister, Punjab, S. Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa has said that the sugarcane crushing work in all the sugar mills of the State would commence from 8th-15th November. He further said that all the sugar mills would be issued directions by the SUGARFED to make proper arrangements during the fixed timeframe and start the crushing work so as to not let the sugarcane farmers encounter any difficulty.

In a press communiqué issued here today, S. Randhawa laying bare the true picture before those protesting on the issue with political ends, said that during the past 10 years of the previous regime the sugarcane crushing work usually began in mid-December whereas he has ensured its commencement one month in advance. The minister asked those protesting that why didn't they voiced their protests then? He further said that these protests are politically motivated and have absolutely no connection with the farmers or their interests. Had the protestors been the true well wishers of the farming community then they wouldn't have been sitting quiet over the course of past 10 years. He also said that it is a pro-farmer initiative of the present Punjab Government which has also emerged as the benefactor of the farming sector through its debt relief scheme.

Divulging more, the Cooperation Minister while giving details of the previous decade said that in 2015-16 the crushing work began on 4th December in the sugar mill at Gurdaspur & Batala, in 2012-13 in Ajnala sugar mill the work commenced on 7th December, In 2009-10 the work started in Bhogpur sugar mill on the 16th December, In 2009-10 the work got kickstarted on 30th November in Nawanshahar sugar mill, In 2016-17 in Nakodar sugar mill the work began on 6th December, In 2009-10 and 2011-12 in Buddhewal sugar mill the work began on 5th December, In Morinda sugar mill the work started on 1st December in 2008-09, 2011-12 & 2015-16 while in the Fazilka sugar mill the work started on the 15th of December in 2011-12.

Meanwhile the Managing Director of SUGARFED Mr. Davinder Singh has said that as per the

directions of the Cooperation Minister the sugarcane crushing work would commence in all the sugar mills from 8th-15th November and directions are being given to all the mills in this regard.

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