News Coverage for Website

20 March 2025

CCP News Exclusive



Sugar prices should not exceed Rs164 per kg, says Deputy PM Dar

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said that retail sugar prices should not exceed Rs164 after the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) warned sugar mills against price manipulation.

Contrary to the rates announced by the prime minister as well as several attempts by the government to maintain retail sales at Rs130 per kg, sugar prices in the markets continue to soar above Rs180 per kg in various markets across the country.

Sugar consumption is forecast to increase slightly to 6.7 million tonnes as it has continuously grown due to the population growth and demand from the food processing sector.

During the last season, Pakistan produced more than 6.84m tonnes of sugar, which is expected to rise in 2024-25.

Speaking to journalists, the deputy prime minister said that according to news reports, there was a spike in sugar prices to Rs178 - 179, "which is obviously not tolerable" to the prime minister.

"So yesterday we had a late night meeting so we could conclude this matter — so we can together find a viable way in which a common citizen can find relief and he doesn't have to hear talks of [sugar prices] reaching Rs180 to Rs200," he said.

"And we reach a reasonable price where you don't suffer losses either — [so] a subcommittee is being made for the numbers which Rana Tanveer sahab [minister for national food security and research] will head."

Dar said the committee will work until April 19 to determine costs and provide feedback on the sugar mills claims — that they were not responsible for the price hike of the commodity.

He also added that they needed to work on a system so that the "common man can have cheaper sugar ... but for that we would need a distribution channel and an implementation mechanism is necessary".

On Federal Board of Revenue (FBR)'s sales tax on sugar, he said that it would be charged at Rs154 to 155 — with the price cap at Rs159.

He said that the government will work to gather intelligence reports, along with the CCP, which will also collect data.

Given this alleged massive siphoning from the consumers, the CCP had stated that it was closely monitoring the ongoing sugar crisis and warned that strict enforcement and policy actions will be taken if any anti-competitive activities are found.

The CCP has been working to curb cartelisation in the sugar industry, promoting fair competition and protecting consumers.

"We need to ensure a two tier system and if the government is satisfied that we can implement the two tier system, the advantage will be that the common man can get sugar at a cheaper price," Dar said.

The CCP inquiry launched in 2020 revealed that sugar mills were prima facie engaged in price-fixing and controlling supply through coordinated actions facilitated by the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA).

As part of the investigation, the CCP also conducted raids and imposed Rs44 billion in penalties on sugar mills and the PSMA in August 2021, one of the highest fines in its history.

https://www.dawn.com/news/1898925

Express Tribune

Govt sets sugar price at Rs164/kg

The government on Wednesday fixed the retail price of sugar at Rs164 per kilogram, which is 13% higher than it had set at the time of allowing the export of 600,000 metric tonnes of sugar, giving millers the bonanza of earning higher revenues from local and overseas markets.

The decision was taken by a 10-member committee led by Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar. The committee fixed new ex-factory and retail prices of sugar after negotiating with the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) – the entity that is accused of operating as a cartel by the nation's antitrust watchdog.

The committee also fixed the ex-factory price at Rs159 per kilogram in consultation with the PSMA – also higher by Rs19 or 13.5% compared to the earlier maximum threshold.

The deputy prime minister announced the decision through X – the social media platform.

Dar said that the sugar retail price will be Rs164 per kilogram and the ex-mill price will be Rs159 for one month. The prices are higher by Rs19 per kg or over 13%. The Rs1 increase in price gives Rs2.8 billion in additional benefit to the sugar mills.

The decision marks a departure from the government's earlier action of fixing the ex-factory price at Rs140 and the retail price at Rs145 per kg when it had allowed the export of sugar last year. The Rs19 per kg benefit to the millers is contrary to the earlier decision that sugar prices would remain unchanged despite the exports.

On Monday, the government had told the millers that their production cost, inclusive of taxes, was Rs154 per kg, but the millers claimed that it was Rs174.

The per-kilogram price of sugar has shot up to an average of Rs172 as of last Friday – Rs27 per kg higher than the same week of the last year, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

The prime minister had set up the Dar-led committee after average sugar prices jumped by Rs10 within a week and Rs27 compared to last year, according to the national data-collecting agency. It also reported that the maximum national price skyrocketed to Rs180 per kg in Karachi and Islamabad.

A key reason behind the increase in sugar prices was Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's decision to allow sugar exports. The PBS on Monday stated that the country exported 757,779 metric tonnes of sugar from July to February of this fiscal year.

Compared to last year, when only 33,101 metric tonnes of sugar had been exported, there was a 2,190% increase in exports in this fiscal year, the data showed. In terms of value, the exporters earned \$407 million during the July-February period, which was also \$386 million or 1,831% higher than the previous fiscal year, the PBS data showed.

Dar said that a sub-committee has also been constituted under the chairmanship of Minister of Food Rana Tanveer Husain. He said the sub-committee would review sugar prices and come up with recommendations.

The deputy prime minister said that sugar would still be sold at Rs130 per kg at 274 special bazaars being set up across the country. He said that there would not be any shortage of the commodity.

He added that sugar mills would start the crushing season from November this year, and in case of a delay, action will be taken against them.

However, such warnings had also been given in the past.

The government's decision to fix sugar prices is likely to create distortions in the market, and is also against the advice of the Competition Commission of Pakistan – the antitrust watchdog. The government fixed the price in consultation with the PSMA, which is accused of being a cartel.

The CCP said this week that it has been actively working to curb cartelisation in the sugar industry. In 2020, the CCP launched an inquiry into the sector, which revealed that sugar mills were prima facie engaged in price-fixing and controlling supply through coordinated actions facilitated by the PSMA.

The antitrust watchdog said that in August 2021, the CCP imposed a record Rs44 billion in penalties on sugar mills and the PSMA—one of the highest fines in its history. However, the decision was challenged in courts, and stay orders were issued by the Sindh and Lahore High Courts, as well as the Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT). This has delayed the recovery of penalties, it added.

Its first inquiry in 2009 found prima facie evidence of PSMA's involvement in price-fixing and the manipulation of production and supply quotas.

Over the years, the CCP has issued multiple policy notes and recommended the federal and provincial governments to reduce market distortions.

The CCP said that currently, about 127 cases related to sugar cartelisation are pending in various courts, including 24 in the Supreme https://tribune.com.pk/story/2535311/govt-sets-sugar-price-at-rs164kg

Daily Times

Ishaq Dar warns sugar mills as prices soar beyond Rs180

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar announced that retail sugar prices should not exceed Rs164 per kg, following warnings from the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) against price manipulation. Despite government efforts to maintain rates at Rs130 per kg, market prices have surged above Rs180, causing public concern. Sugar consumption is projected to reach 6.7 million tonnes, with production expected to rise in 2024-25.

Dar addressed the issue, stating that the government held urgent meetings to find a solution benefiting both consumers and producers. A subcommittee, led by Rana Tanveer, will investigate pricing issues and submit findings by April 19. He emphasized the need for a distribution system to ensure affordable sugar for the public while preventing industry losses.

The FBR's sales tax on sugar will be set at Rs154-155 per kg, with a price cap of Rs159. The government, alongside the CCP, will gather intelligence to prevent market exploitation. The CCP reaffirmed its commitment to strict enforcement against anti-competitive activities, warning of severe penalties for violations.

The CCP's 2020 inquiry revealed price-fixing and supply control by sugar mills, coordinated through the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA). Raids led to a Rs44 billion fine on sugar mills and the PSMA in 2021, one of the largest penalties in CCP history. The government aims to implement a two-tier pricing system to protect consumers from unjustified price hikes. https://dailytimes.com.pk/1277278/ishaq-dar-warns-sugar-mills-as-prices-soar-beyond-rs180/

Samaa

Sugar prices increase by Rs5 per kg in Karachi

The price of sugar in Karachi's wholesale market has surged by Rs5 per kg within a few hours, reaching Rs163 per kg on Wednesday.

Just a day earlier, the commodity was available at Rs158 per kg, marking a sharp increase in its cost.

According to traders, the Competition Commission of Pakistan's (CCP) investigation into sugar cartelization has backfired, causing further disruption in the market. They claim that instead of curbing price manipulation, the probe has led to increased inflation in the sugar sector.

Additionally, traders have accused the government of legally enabling the rising sugar prices, alleging that recent policies have provided legal cover to inflation rather than controlling it.

https://www.samaa.tv/2087330664-sugar-prices-increase-by-rs5-per-kg-in-karachi

Bloom Pakistan

Deputy PM Dar Sets Price Cap for Sugar @ Rs164 per kg

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar announced on Wednesday that the retail price of sugar should not exceed Rs164 per kilogram, following concerns raised by the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) about price manipulation by sugar mills.

Despite efforts by the government, including directives from the Prime Minister to keep prices at Rs130 per kilogram, retail sugar prices continue to soar, reaching over Rs180 per kilogram in various markets across the country.

The surge in sugar prices is also attributed to increased consumption, which is projected to rise slightly to 6.7 million tonnes due to population growth and higher demand from the food processing industry.

In the previous season, Pakistan produced more than 6.84 million tonnes of sugar, with production expected to rise in 2024-25.

Addressing journalists, Dar expressed concern over the price spike, stating, "According to news reports, sugar prices have surged to Rs178-179, which is obviously not tolerable to the prime minister."

He further mentioned that a late-night meeting was held to find a solution that would provide relief to the common citizen, preventing prices from rising to Rs180 or even Rs200 per kilogram.

Dar revealed that a subcommittee would be established, led by Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer, to work on this issue.

The committee will work until April 19 to assess costs and evaluate sugar mills' claims that they are not responsible for the price increase.

To address the issue, Dar emphasized the need for an efficient distribution system and an implementation mechanism to ensure sugar is more affordable for the public.

On the matter of sales tax, he mentioned that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) would impose a sales tax on sugar at Rs154-155 per kilogram, with a price cap set at Rs159 per kilogram.

The CCP, which has been monitoring the sugar crisis, has warned that strict enforcement actions will be taken if any anti-competitive practices are found.

The CCP has been investigating cartelization within the sugar industry, which includes coordinated actions by sugar mills, facilitated by the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA), to manipulate prices and control supply.

As part of its investigation, the CCP conducted raids in 2021 and imposed a significant Rs44 billion fine on sugar mills and the PSMA for their role in price-fixing, marking one of the highest penalties in its history.

Dar emphasized that implementing a two-tier system would benefit the public, allowing sugar to be sold at a cheaper price, provided the government is satisfied that the system can be enforced effectively.

QUAID-I-AZAM MOHAMMAD

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www.dawn.c

JINNAH

Sugar prices should not exceed Rs164 a kg: Dar

Dawn Report

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said that retail sugar prices should not exceed Rs164 after the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) warned sugar mills against price manipulation, reported Dawn.com.

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The CCP inquiry launched in 2020 revealed that sugar mills were prima facie engaged in price-fixing and controlling supply through coordinated actions facilitated by the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA).

BUSINESS

TRIBUNE

Thursday MARCH 20, 2025

Govt sets sugar price at Rs164/kg

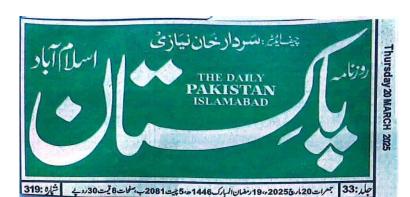
Decision benefits millers, raises concerns amid rising local and export revenues





ایک ماہ کیلئے چینی کی ریٹیل قیمت 164 روپے فی کلومقرر ایک ماہ کیلئے چینی کی ریٹیل قیمت 164 روپے فی کلومقرر ایک مل قیمت 159 روپے کا فائدہ پنچے کا فیصلہ ملز کوچینی کی ایک پیورٹ کی اجازت دیتے وقت کیے گئے فیصلے کے برخلاف اسلام آباد (رپرٹ : همباذرانا، خالامود) اشافہ کرتے ہوئے ایک باہ کیلے چینی کی دیشل وفاق سوت نے چینی کی دیشل ایس کا فیصلہ کی دیشل وفاق سوت نے چینی کی دیشل

وزيراعظم احاق دارني سوشل ميذيا بليف نائب و دریا سم اسحال دارے سول سیدی پیسے قارم ایکس پر فیصلے کا اطان کرتے ہوئے تکسا کہ ایک فارم ایکس پر فیصل کیست 164 روپے فی کا کلو جگر ایکس لی تیست 159 روپے فی کلو ہوگی، یہ تیست يراني قيت ك مقابل يم 19 روي في كلوزياده ا ہے، جکہ چنی کی تبت میں ایک روپے اضافے ے حور مز بالكان كو 2.8 ارب رو يكا ضافى فائده ے دور رہ مان دی۔ ارب روج دا مان الدہ اوتا ہے، یادر ہے کہ حکومت کا یہ فیصلہ خوکر طور کو میٹی کیا کیسپودٹ کی اجازت دیتے وقت کیے گئے فیصلے کے خلاف ہے، جس بین خوکر طور کو این شرط پر چیٹی ع موات مرف کی اجازت دی گئی تمی کرچینی کی ا کیسپورٹ سے مقامی مارکیٹ میں چینی کی قیت یں کوئی اضافہ فیس ہوگا، غاکرات کے دوران عكومت في شوكر طز ما لكان كو بتايا قما كريكسول ك ساتھ چینی کی پیداداری قیت 154 روپ ہے، كين مز مالكان في پيداداري قيت 174 روي ولے كا وكوئى كيا، تا م طويل غاكرات كے بعد حومت نے ان فی قیتوں کا اطلان کیا ہے، ادارة شاریات کے مطابق گزشتہ عداد مینی کی قیت فروفت 172 روب رای، جرالاشته سال کای ار مص ک مقابله فن 27روب فی کلوز باده ب اسحاق ڈار کا یہ می کہنا تھا کے روال سال حور ملیس اوبریل کردیک بیزن شردع کریل کی ، اور تاخر كرنے يان كے خلاف كاررواكى كا جاتے كى۔



جيني قيمت مين اضافه كن صورت برداشت نهين كيا جائيًا، نائب دزيراعظم ،ايف آ كَيا التِحقيقات، لِي تَي ا اسلام آباد (عدلار) سالیتی میشن آف خورده لیسی 164 روپ نیاده تیل اول دو پیک فا کی بجدواتی طور پردار مظم ک

لے اتالی برداشت ہے۔ان کا کہا قا کہ اس

ا کتان (ی ی لی) کی جانب سے شور طوک چاہیں۔ اسلام آباد علی شعقد ایک اجلاس فیوں علی میرا پھیری کے فال خرد اور کے کے سے منظور کے ہوئے نائب وزیافقم نے کہا کہ خروں کے مطابق سینی کی قیت 178 ہے 179 اس معالے کومل (باتی صفحہ 7بقیہ نبر 14)

بعدنائب وزير اعظم الحق وارت كها كديميني ك

14 بقيه اسحاق ذار ترعين اورايك ايدا قابل عل طريقة عاش كرعيس جس ے عام شری کور پلیف ال سکے اور اے چینی ك يسي 180 = 200 ريك كري ك

پائی نے منے کولیس - انہوں کے کہا کہ ہم آیک مناسب قیت پر پہنچا یا وہ ب ہیں جہاں شوکر فوکر قسان میں وور اس کے ال اصاد و اور شار کے لیے ویلی کمیلی بنائی جا رہی ہے جس کی مریمای وور پر اے منطل و و کیا ہوئی اینڈ دیسری دانا تھوے کریں کے اختی والد کے کہا کہ کئی الاک کے کریں کے اختی والد کے کہا کہ کئی الاک کے ھیں اور شرکر طرکے ان دول پردائے دیے کے لیے 19 اپریل تک کام کرے کی کردد اجاس ک قیوں ش اضافے کے امددار میں اس انہوں تے 154ردے سے 159ردے ہو کی اور اللہ لی آرائیس اور کر اس سے مطابی می ساوی تے 150 دب 159 دب 159 دب 159 دب 169 دب 169 دب 169 دب 169 دب 16 دب 169 دب



مر المرافق ال

اسلام آباد (اے لی این نیز) سابقی کیشن آف پاکتان (ی ی پی) کی جانب ہے شور گراز کو آفی قار نے کہا کہ چین کی خوردہ قیت سے 164 دور ا استان کردہ نرخوں اور حکومت کی جانب ہے اطلان کردہ نرخوں اور حکومت کی جانب خوردہ تیت فروخت 130 دو ہے فی کلو پر برآ

کے خلاف خردار کرنے کے بعد نائب وزیر اعظم آخن دار نے كماكر چين كي خورده يستي 164 روب ے زیادہ نیں ہونی جائیں۔وزیراعظم کی جانب ے اعلان کردہ فرخوں اور حکومت کی جاب ۔ خوروہ تیت فرونت 130 روپے ٹی کلو پر برقرار ر کھنے کی متعدد کوششوں کے باوجود ملک بھر کی مختلف ماركيوں عن ماركيوں عن جين كى تيسيں 180 کونک آبادی عن اضافے اور فوڈ پروسینگ سیٹرک ما تک کے باعث جین کی قینوں مسلسل اضافہ ہوا ے _ گرشتہ سیزن کے دوران یا کتان عم 68 لاکھ 40 ہزارٹن سے زائد چین پیدا ہوئی می جس میں . 2024-25 ش اضافے كاتو تع ب- اسلام آبادین اہم اجلاس سے مفتلوکرتے ہوئے نائر وزيراعظم في كها كدخرول كيمطابل جين كي قيت 178 = 179رو يا كان كي كي عجودا سع طور روز پراعظم کے لیے نا قائل برداشت ہے۔ان کا مہنا تھا کہ اس لیے کل دات دیر کھے ہمادی میڈنگ مولی تاکه ہم اس معالم کے کومل کر سکیس اور ایک ایسا قال عل طریقہ الل كر عيس جي سے عام شرى كو ریلف ل کے اور اے چین کی قیسی 180 ہے 200رو يرتك وكني كى باتمل ندسنة كوليس-



خروں کے مطابق می کی کی تیسٹ 7 1 سے 7 1 روپ می تائی گئا ہے جودا شی طور پروز براعظم کے لیے ما قامل برداشت ہے، اساق ڈار

اسلام آباد (این این آئی نائب وزیراعظم التی تیسی 4 % 1 دوبے نے زیادہ نیس ہوئی دار نے سابقتی کیشن آف پاکستان (سی لی) کی چاہئیں۔ اہم اجلاس کے تعظوکرتے ہوئے نائب جانب سے شوکر ملزکو تیموں میں ہمرا چیری کے وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ فروان کے مطابق میں کی تیست

افی کی ہے ہو واقع طور پی وزیرائسم کے لیے ناتی گر پرواشت کے انہوں کے آباکہ اس کے گزشتہ وات ویر کے حاری میٹنگ ہوئی اور کہ تم ان معا مطا کوئل آٹسٹی اور ایک ایما تاقال اگر طور پید خاتی کر کھیں جس سے عام شرق کار میڈیال مطابق اسے تاقی کی کھیں 1880 ہے 2000ء ادر پایسی کا دردان کی جینے کی مصابحت کی جانب سے سید ہیں ہے نے پر دھرکوروش کی فاقع اسے پر تی تی پی نے کہا تھا کہ دو چگن کے جاری جران کران پر گھری کا مرابقتی سرگرمیاں پائی شرکتہ آئی پر تی سے گل درآ مدار پایسی اقداد سے کے جا ایس کے مسابقتی ایشن تی تی کا مدست میں کار نیاائز بھی کو در کے داخشات سابقت کی کار