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Cabinet nod to ₹3k-cr incentive will help clear dues of farmers

New Delhi: The Cabinet on Wednesday approved Rs 3,500 crore subsidy to sugar mills for export of 60 lakh tonnes of the sweetener during the ongoing marketing year 2020-21 with the objective to help them clear outstanding dues of sugarcane farmers.

This subsidy of nearly Rs 6 per kg will also help the industry liquidate stocks worth Rs 18,000 crore in the next 10-12 months over and above sales

domestically.

The government claimed the decision will benefit nearly five crore sugarcane growers as they will get subsidy directly into their accounts at a time when the government is trying hard to convince farmers protesting against the recent farm laws of its commitment to their welfare.

"Industries availing this subsidy, which have cane payment due to farmers, will have to clear the arrears first. So, the aim of this decision is to help the farmers. The subsidy amount will be credited to the industries only if they have no dues," an official said. He added that liquidating the 60 lakh tonnes stocks will improve the financial condition of industry and hence this is a good decision for farmers and the sugar industry as well.