



# BJP - SHIVSENA ALLIANCE

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## BJP Govt. shall investigate 1000 crore Sugar Scam- Kirit Somaiya

BJP leader Dr. Kirit Somaiya has alleged that there is a big 'ghotala' in the Sugar export and import saga and this Big Scam, shall exceed Rs.1000 crores.

He stated that the BJP, once it comes to power, shall thoroughly investigate the matter and expose the Sugar Barons who have benefited from the scam- which has left the 'Aam Aadmi' reeling under a steep price rise in Sugar.

Sugar Prices had touched Rs. 30/-- per kg. in April 2009 in Retail markets. In APMC Market in Navi Mumbai, wholesale price of Sugar is quoted around Rs. 2400/- per quintal.

Dr. Somaiya criticized that it was only after him and the BJP raised the issue 10 days back, that the govt. in a knee jerk reaction decided to take action.

It may be recalled that the govt had **exported** 48 lakh tonnes of Sugar @ Rs. 12/- to 13/- per kg in the year 2008 stating that India was a 'Sugar surplus state' and had even given a subsidy of Rs. 1.45 per kg to the private exporters. The total consumption of Sugar is 230 lakh tonnes annually.

Most shockingly, **in the same year- 2008/ 2009**, the govt. announced its decision to **import** sugar, at a higher rate of Rs. 22/- to 24/- per kg. - **stating a deficit/ shortage in sugar.**

Now in February 2009, the Indian Govt. allowed duty free imports of white sugar up to 10 lakh tonnes and also decided to do away with export obligation for import.

The prices of Sugar- which were at a level of Rs. 17/- per kilo in October 2008 have risen sharply by almost Rs. 10/- in the past few months. This was due to the nexus between the Sugar lobby and Commodity Exchanges and aided by a supportive govt., he added.

He criticized the Congress / NCP led Govt.'s non transparent and manipulative economic policy which benefited only a select few. He said that this is a classic case of how the govt policy can be misused and manipulated to suit someone's vested interest.

Dr. Somaiya stated that the so-called 'Shetkari Raja', Union Minister is responsible for the plight of the Aam Aadmi. He added that he had a lot of information on the scam and would hand it over to CAG and CBI at the appropriate time.

Dr. Somaiya stated that the Commodity Exchanges were set up with an idea of becoming a platform for good price discovery mechanism for agricultural producers to plan which crop to sow and for manufacturers to hedge their products.

Unfortunately, the Commodity Exchanges had become speculative gambling dens of non participants and speculators. He added that the entire Sugar Export/Import Scam was with the connivance of the Sugar lobby, 2 big players on the Commodity Exchanges and 2 senior politicians in the Congress-NCP led central govt. He added that the BJP would also investigate the dubious role of select speculators in the sugar price rise.

Dr. Kirit Somaiya further added that there were several anomalies created and ad hoc decisions taken by the Congress-NCP led UPA govt. in connection to Sugar. The govt had shown scant respect to the needs of the common man-and its non-transparent economic policies are benefiting only a particular segment.

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**N-E Mumbai Candidate : Kirit Somaiya**