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Growth of Sugar Industry in India

Dr. Arun C. Kharde
Head, Dept. of Economics,
SGRG Shinde Mahavidyalaya,
Paranda, Dist. Osmanabad

Introduction:

The sugar industry is playing a pivotal role in the Indian economy by contributing a major share to the national income and helping in the development of rural areas by being an agro-based industry. It has also emerged as a major foreign exchange earner. Nearly 70 percent of the country's working population is dependent on the agriculture and very significant portion of its national income comes from agriculture. Agricultural development followed by rural development is therefore, need of the hour to boost the national economy. Sugar industry is such an industry located in rural areas which provides opportunities for the upliftment of rural masses.

The historical background of the Indian sugar industry

Saint. Vishwamitra is known as the research person of the sugarcane in religious literature. We can find the example of sugarcane in Vedic literature also as well as in "Atharwaved". There are various references of sugar and the sugarcane in Patanjali's Mahabashya and the treaty on the grammar of 'panini'. Greek traveller 'Niyarchus' and Chinese traveler 'Tai-sung' have mentioned in their travelogue that the people of India used to know the method of making sugar and juice from sugarcane. The great emperor Alexander also carried sugarcane with him while returning to his country.