

(ग) उक्त अवधि के दौरान निजी क्षेत्र को ऋण प्रदान किए जाने के संबंध में सरकार को किन्तनी शिक्कायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं; और

(घ) सरकार द्वारा इन पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० ए० के० पटेल): (क) से (घ) उर्वरक परियोजनाओं के वास्ते लिए गए ऋणों पर 3% व्याज छूट के लिए एक स्कीम चल रही थी। यह स्कीम 31.8.97 को समाप्त हो गई। निजी और सहकारी क्षेत्र की विभिन्न उर्वरक परियोजनाओं के लिए 72.63 करोड़ रु० की राशि रिलीज की गई है।

स्कीम के संचालन तथा इसकी व्याख्या संबंधी कुछ अभ्यावेदन समय-समय पर अलग-अलग कंपनियों से प्राप्त हुए हैं।

Shortage of Fertilizers

2180. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
 PROF. VIJAY KUMAR
 MALHOTRA:
 SHRI RAGHAVJI:
 PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the shortage and blackmarketing of fertilizers in the country at a time when the farmers are planning to sow wheat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government to make fertilizers available in the open market, to overcome the difficulties being faced by the farmers on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) There has been no shortage reported of urea during the on-going Rabi season which is the only fertilizer under price, movement and distribution control.

The availability and distribution of other fertilizers which are decontrolled, are regulated by the market forces of

demand and supply operating within the parameters of the Concession Scheme of Government.

During the current Rabi season, localised shortages of DAP had/have been reported from the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Besides, the State of West Bengal had reported temporary shortages of MOP during November '98. These occurred due to:

(i) bunching of imports of nearly 7.5 lakh metric tonnes during the months of October-November '98 due to which it (DAP) could not be pre-positioned;

(ii) concentration of nearly 5 lakh metric tonnes of DAP at the two ports namely, JNPT and Vizag which resulted in congestion and consequent delay in movement from these ports;

(iii) delay in movement due to cyclonic storm at Vizag port which affected movement of rakes for nearly 20 days; and

(iv) increase in peak demand due to increase in area under sowing of wheat.

(c) The Government took the following steps for reaching DAP & MOP to the States:

(i) Priority was accorded in berthing of DAP vessels at JNPT and Vizag.

(ii) Priority in movement was accorded by rail of DAP/MOP both from the plants and the ports.

(iii) Additional import of 55,000 metric tonnes of DAP have been arranged from Jordan on priority through Indian Potash Limited.

Beside, the State Governments reportedly stepped up the vigil at their end and took action under Essential

(Commodities) Act against those indulging in illegal practices such as hoarding, blackmarketing etc. of these fertilizers.

Durgapur Unit of H.F.C.

2181. SHRI DIPANKAR
MUKHERJEE:
SHRI MD. SALIM:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Durgapur Fertilizer Unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation cannot be restarted because of Rs. 45 crore only;

(b) if so, reasons why the funds cannot be diverted/allocated by the Ministry as loan from KRIBHCO and IFFCO with guarantee from Government;

(c) whether subsidies are recoverable from some private companies on account of non reporting of nameplate capacities; and

(d) if so, why the same cannot be recovered and used for revival of Durgapur and other units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) Sustained operations of Durgapur unit are not feasible unless a complete revamp of the plant is undertaken. Hence, it will be possible to consider the resumption of production of Durgapur Unit only in terms of the final decision of the Government on the revival of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.

(c) and (d) The Government is aware of the high capacity utilisation being attained by some of the urea manufacturing units. The Government is seized of the complexities of the issues involved and the need to take a balanced and holistic view of the matter.

Feed-stock policy for fertilizer units

2182. SHRI DIPANKAR
MUKHERJEE:
SHRI MD. SALIM:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the present feed-stock policy of Government for new fertilizer units;

(b) whether clearance for NAPHTHA-based fertilizers are not being given;

(c) whether Government are thinking of using coal as feedstock in view of the shortage of gas and oil in the country;

(d) if so, the steps taken to revive coal based fertilizer plants at Ramagundam and Talcher; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) Natural gas is the preferred feedstock for the manufacture of nitrogenous fertilizers. However, owing to non-availability of natural gas in adequate quantity, fertilizer plants using other feedstocks such as naphtha have been allowed by the Government. To supplement the feedstock requirement, some plants have been set up with dual or mixed feedstock facility.

(b) and (c) The High Powered Committee on the "Fertilizer Pricing Policy" has recommended that the viability of the coal-based technology for fertilizer plants should be further investigated. In view of the limited availability of natural gas, the general feedstock policy of the Government is being evolved.

(d) and (e) A comprehensive rehabilitation proposal of FCI on consideration of unit-wise viability including Ramagundam and Talcher unit is presently under Inter-Ministerial consultation.