

(b) if so, the present position in this regard;

(c) whether urea is a controlled item, whereas phosphatic and potassic fertilizers were decontrolled and whether this has led to a distortion in their use over the last few years; if so, what steps Government have so far taken in this regard;

(d) whether there is a proposal to import fertilizers to meet the situation; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government have reviewed or propose to review the fertilizer pricing and subsidy policies to correct the nutrient imbalance in the soil; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN): (a) to (c) Urea is the only fertiliser which is under statutory price control, at present. Price, distribution and movement control on Phosphatic and Potassic fertilisers has been lifted with effect from 25.8.1992. The decontrol of these fertilisers resulted in steep hike in their prices leading to distortion in their use. In order to cushion the impact of this price hike and to correct distortion in NPK ratio, the Government of India has been implementing a scheme of concession on sale of these decontrolled fertilisers with effect from 1.10.1992. The decline in the use of phosphatic and potassic fertilisers has been arrested in 1994-95 and the NPK consumption ratio has also improved from 9.7:2.9:1 in 1993-94 to 8.4:2.6:1 in 1994-95 as can be seen from the table below:

Year	Consumption (Lakh tonnes)				NPK ratio
	N	P	K	Total	
1992-93	84.27	28.44	8.84	121.55	9.5:3.2:1
1993-94	87.89	26.69	9.08	123.66	9.7:2.9:1
1994-95	95.07	29.32	11.25	135.64	8.4:2.6:1

(d) At present, imports of urea alone is canalised. The imports of phosphatic and potassic fertilisers are decanalised. During 1995-96, 34.97 lakh tonnes urea have been imported between April, 1995 and February, 1996 on Government account. About 14.47 lakh tonnes Di-Ammonium Phosphate and 17.02 lakh tonnes Muriate of Potash have been imported between April-December, 1995.

(e) At present no change in the fertiliser pricing and subsidy policy is envisaged.

Prices of Pulses

978. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increase in the prices of pulses;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the steps taken to arrest the increase in the prices of pulses; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN): (a) to (d) The increase in the prices of 'pulses' as a group is currently in consonance with the rise in general wholesale prices although the prices of certain pulses are still ruling high due to demand supply imbalances. In order to augment the supply, the import of pulses is being allowed under O.G.L. at a nominal customs duty of 5 per cent. Also, the Pulses (Storage Control) Order, 1977, has been amended to exclude imported pulses from the purview of storage limits prescribed under the said Order.

Donations by SAIL

979. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 290 given in Rajya Sabha on 15th December, 1995 and state:

(a) the reasons and justification of giving donations by SAIL to several foundations;

(b) whether Government propose to probe the donations of SAIL by CBI; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) SAIL being one of the biggest public sector undertakings, shares the country's concern for economic and social development. Hence, Board of Directors of the Company (SAIL) sanction, every year, certain amounts for donations within the limit prescribed under the Companies Act, 1956 for providing financial help for undertaking welfare/developmental/construction works for medical, educational, cultural and sports promotion activities etc., spread all over the country.