

Subsidy on Fertilizers**68. SHRI SOM PAL:****SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fertilizer subsidy given by Government is going to be stopped, or reduced; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) what was the amount of subsidy given to farmers during the last three years;

(c) what is the procedure of administering such subsidy;

(d) whether it is handed over to manufacturers or farmers; and

(e) what is the quantity of fertilizers produced in the country at present and also that likely to be imported if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTI LAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) There is no proposal at present with the Government to stop the fertilizer subsidy. No decision has been taken even to reduce the subsidy, although Government constantly reviews the various issues connected with fertilizer subsidy.

(b) Fertilizer subsidy is paid to the manufacturers and not directly to the farmers. The subsidy paid during the last three years is as follows:

1987-88 . Rs. 2163.84 crores

1988-89 . Rs. 3200.70 crores

1989-90 . Rs. 4542.10 crores

(c) and (d) The consumer price at which the fertilizer is sold to farmers by manufacturers or handling agents is notified by Government. This price is much below the cost of manufacture or import of fertilizers. The retention price for each product in respect of individual manufacturers is computed with reference to the guidelines approved by Fertilizer Industry Coordination Committee and the difference between the retention price and the net realisation by a manufacturing unit is paid as subsidy to the manufacturer under the retention price-cum-subsidy scheme. Even though such payments are made to the manufacturers, they are intended to be passed on to the consumers by way of subsidised notified prices at which the manufacturers have to sell fertilizers to the farmers.

(e) During the current year 1990-91, about 88.50 lakh tonnes of fertilizers in terms of nutrients are expected to be produced. Upto the end of January, 1991 during the current financial year 24.96 lakh tonnes of fertilizer nutrients have been imported.

विदेशी पर्यटकों को भारतीय संस्कृति और सभ्यता के प्रति आकर्षित करने के लिए योजनाएं

69. सरदार जगजीत सिंह खरीडा : श्री राम बेटमलानी :

क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार को विदेशी पर्यटकों से भारी मात्रा में विदेशी मुद्रा की आय होती है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान प्रति वर्ष कितनी-कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित की गई ;