

Violation of quality norms by the Fertiliser manufacturers

*9. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some instances of violation of the quality norms by fertiliser manufacturers, have recently come to light;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter; and

(d) what was the estimated quantity marketed by these fertiliser units during the last 3 years and so far in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Teams from the Central Fertiliser Quality control and Training Institute while inspecting the various manufacturing units during 1990-91, have found violation of quality norms by nine manufacturing units of SSP, five units of Zinc Sulphate and three units of NPK mixtures. Besides, the Government of Tamil Nadu have also reported that the NPK complexes manufactured by Madras Fertilisers Limited do not meet the prescribed physical parameters.

(c) The quality of fertilisers is regulated under the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985 (FCO). The State Governments have been vested with adequate powers as enforcement authorities under the FCO to ensure quality. As per available information, the Registration Certificates of two zinc sulphate manufacturing units have been cancelled and one unit has been warned by the Haryana Government. The Haryana Government has also

allowed reprocessing of the nonstandard stock of one SSP manufacturing unit. FIRs have been filed against three SSP manufacturing units and one zinc sulphate manufacturing unit by the Government of Rajasthan. The State Governments are being reminded periodically for taking suitable administrative or legal action against the offending units.

(d) The total quantity of SSP allocated for marketing to these units during 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 is 366.52, 375.71, 328.64 and 251.98 thousand metric tons respectively and the allocation of NPK Complex fertilisers for these years is 175.05, 546.62, 552.82 and 350.60 thousand metric tons respectively. Since zinc sulphate and NPK mixtures are not allocated under the FCO, the details of the quantity marketed by these units are not maintained.

Action against hoarders and black marketeers

*10. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched any drive against hoarders and black marketeers of essential commodities who have caused artificial scarcity and have also raised the prices of such commodities in the country on the eve of and after the outbreak of the Gulf War;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved therefrom;

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite the warning by the Prime Minister a large number of traders and businessmen have abnormally increased the prices of their products;

(d) whether any hoarders and profiteers were taken into custody since the out-break of the Gulf War; if so, the number thereof and whether their