

claims after sales verification by the concerned State Government in prescribed proforma forming basis for final settlement of the claim. Further, in order to put a curb on sale of non standard SSP to farmers and need to promote use of specified grades of rock phosphate, under the new guidelines a Technical & Audit Inspection Cell (TAC) has been constituted to conduct first (1st) time as well as six-monthly inspections of SSP manufacturers for ensuring usage of specified grades of rock phosphate from sources notified by the Department of Fertilizers from time to time. Certain grades of rock phosphate along with sources have since been notified by the Department of Fertilizers.

Export of Anthrax medicines to USA

639. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether USA needs medicines to quell the Anthrax crisis; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Indian Pharmaceutical firms to export medicines available in plenty in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Government of India had offered to the United States supply of US \$ 1 million worth of Ciprofloxacin for treatment of Anthrax. The Government was informed that the United States Government would not be availing of the offer, as they had, in the meantime, been able to arrange for ample supply of Ciprofloxacin within the United States.

Low priced fertilizers for drought prone areas

640. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering to sell fertilizers at lower rates to farmers in drought and famine prone area; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?