

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?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) At present, all fertilisers except Ammonium Sulphate, Ammonium Chloride, Calcium Ammonium Nitrate and Sulphate of Potash are sold at subsidised rates to farmers including the farmers in drought and famine prone areas. There is no proposal under consideration to sell fertilisers at lower rates in drought and famine prone areas.

Financial concessions to fertilizer industries

†641. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that fertilizer manufacturing industries are being provided financial assistance under incentives schemes, in the form of concessions;

(b) if so, the quantum of financial assistance provided during 1997-1998, 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(c) the benefits derived by the fertilizer industries, as a result of these concessions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government provides subsidy to urea manufacturers as the difference between the retention price (cost of production plus 12% post tax return on net worth) and the statutorily notified Maximum Retail Price of Urea, which is the only fertilizer covered under the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme. Government also provides concession at uniform rates to manufacturers of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers covered under the Concession Scheme since the MRPs indicated for these fertilizers are less than the cost of production. The purpose of subsidy/concession scheme is to supply fertilizers to the farmers at

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.