essential and life saving drugs not to fall out of price control and further directed to review drugs which are essential and life saving in nature till 2nd May, 2003. As per the directions of the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare reviewed the National Essential Drugs List 1996 and brought out the National List of Essential Medicines 2003 (NLEM 2003). Keeping in view the directions of the Supreme Court it has been proposed in the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 that basket of drugs for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the NLEM 2003 (subject to certain conditions and exemptions) in addition to the 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the Drug (Price Control) Order, 1995.

(c) Yes please.

(d) Yes please. In September, 2008 the then Minister (C&F&S) has requested Prime Minister to intervene in the matter to ensure that the Pharmaceutical Policy is cleared from the GOM at an early date.

(e) Some of the main recommendations made by the Committee with the objective of making available quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses related to strengthening of drug regulatory system, price negotiations mechanism for patented drugs, reduction in trade margins, strengthening of NPPA, promotion of generic drugs, amendment to Drug (Price Control) Order, 1995 emphasis on R&D, system of pool procurement of medicines etc. The recommendations made by the Standing Committee had already been taken into consideration by the Government in the proposed draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006.

Supply of fertilizers to Andhra Pradesh

163. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested the Union Government to ensure supply of required quantity of fertilizers during Rabi/Kharif season 2008-09;

(b) if so, the details in this regard indicating the quantum of fertilizer released to the State so far; and

(c) by when the entire demand of the State Government is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. Union Government ensures availability of urea at State level. State Governments are responsible for its distribution within the State. All other fertilizers *viz.* DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/de-canalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply.

The availability of Urea, DAP, MOP and Complex fertilisers in Andhra Pradesh during the year 2008-09 are as under:-

(Qty. in '000 tonnes)

State	Particulars	Urea	DAP	MOP	Complex
Andhra Pradesh	Demand/Assessed requirement	2750.00	850.00	585.00	2050.00
	Supply (Availability)	2783.63	997.50	627.49	1649.79
	Sales	2733.00	997.39	603.57	1629.86

As can be seen, there is no shortage of Urea, DAP and MOP in Andhra Pradesh. As regards to complex fertilizers, there is slight tightness in availability because of low level of indigenous production. But the shortage in complex fertilizers has been compensated by additional supplies of DAP to the tune of 1.47 LMT. As such there is no shortage of 'P' in the State.

Allocation and offtake of foodgrains for Kerala

164. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any reduction in the monthly allocation of rice and wheat for Kerala;

(b) if so, what is the reason for the reduction in allocation;

(c) whether there is any reduction in the offtake of rice for APL card holders in the last six months; and

(d) what is the offtake of rice for APL card holders in the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Allocation of food grains for BPL and AAY families have been maintained @ 35 kg. per family per month as per entitlement for all States and UTs, including Kerala. However, allocations of APL rice and wheat to States and UTs are being made based on availability of food grains in the Central Pool.

In 2008-09, allocation of rice was initially made on the basis of average of offtake in the previous two years. However, allocation of wheat was made at 2007-08 level. Kerala was thus made initial monthly allocation of 17056 tons of rice and 11777 tons of wheat in 2008-09. However, subsequently, on the basis of requests from the State and higher availability of food grains in the central pool, *adhoc*/additional/festival allocation of 1.46 lakh tons of rice was made taking the total rice allocation to the State to 3.51 lakh tons as against the previous year's allocation of 3.07 lakh tons and offtake of 2.94 lakh tons. In addition, annual allocation of 1.61 lakh tons of wheat under APL category has also been made.

For current year 2009-10, monthly allocation of 36,056 tons of rice and 11777 tons of wheat under APL category has been made thereby substantially increasing the annual allocation of rice to 4.33 lakh tons as compared to last year's allocation of 3.51 lakh tons.