

Black marketing of fertilizers

†157. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are uniform criteria for supply of fertilizers to all States of the country during Kharif and Rabi seasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware of the rampant black marketing of fertilizers during sowing season in the country; and

(d) if so, efforts made/being made by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Government have approved the New Pricing Scheme (NPS) Stage III to be implemented with effect from 1.10.2006. Under the NPS III, the effort is to reach urea to each and every State. The subsidy on urea will be paid only when it reaches the district. The urea is allotted as per monthly requirement project by State Government through Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. The requirement of urea is met through indigenous production and gap between demand assessment and indigenous production is met through imports.

Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. All other fertilizers *viz.* DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/decanalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. Department of Fertilizers gives Statewise/monthwise supply plan indicated by manufacturers/importers of these fertilizers as per the requirement and ensures availability through the instrument of subsidy.

(c) and (d) The State Governments, as the enforcement agencies, are adequately empowered under Fertiliser Control Order, 1985 to take appropriate action against any offender who indulges in any kind of malpractices including black marketing.

Destruction of toxic waste generated by Union Carbide Plant

158. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken measures or proposes to take the same for the destruction of tonnes of toxic waste generated by Union Carbide Plant in Bhopal 25 years ago;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The High Court of Madhya Pradesh while hearing the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed in Writ Petition No. 2802/2004 regarding removal of toxic wasters from the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

former Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) Plant site at Bhopal, constituted a Task Force *vide* Order dated 30th March, 2005 for implementation of toxic waste removal/destruction. *Vide* order dated 13th May, 2005, the High Court also considered a roadmap submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, prepared in consultation with the Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board, for environmental remediation of the former UCIL plant site. The Task Force has been monitoring the implementation of the roadmap, as per the Orders/directions issued by the High Court and in compliance thereof, 40 MT of Lime Sludge was disposed of at the Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF) at Pithampur, near Indore in the last week of June, 2008. The High Court had directed *vide* Orders dated 15th July, 2008 and 16th December, 2008, that 350 MT of other toxic wastes will be transported to Ankleshwar for incineration in the incinerator of M/s. Bharuch Enviro Infrastructure Limited, at Ankleshwar, Gujarat. However, the Government of Gujarat has filed Special Leave Petitions in the Supreme Court against these orders of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh. The matter is *sub-judice*.

Awareness about drug pricing and availability

159. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has recently started a nationwide consumer campaign to create awareness about drug pricing and the availability of low cost off label drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the price differentiate between generic and branded drugs have increased manifold and doctors are mostly prescribing branded drugs in nexus with the manufacturers; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that the manufacturers of branded drugs do not sell drugs at higher prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) No nation-wide consumer campaign to create awareness about drug pricing and the availability of low cost off label drugs have recently been started by NPPA. However, apart from dissemination of information through the NPPA website efforts are being made to create consumer awareness with the help of Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Department of Pharmaceuticals through advertisements in the electronic and print media.

(c) and (d) The prices of branded drugs are generally found to be high as compared to generic drugs. Government is committed to promote the use of generic medicines.

There were some reports in the newspaper in the recent past regarding promotional expenses being made by pharma companies. The reports suggest that there are some unethical