

(f) whether agricultural production during 2008-09 also increased over 2007-08 commensurating with the volume of fertilizer consumption;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) whether fertilizer-subsidy policy revision is contemplated by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Department of Fertilizers is administering Concession Scheme for decontrolled P & K fertilizers, which is currently effective upto 31.3.2010. As per the scheme, the fertilizers viz. DAP, MOP, NPK Complexes, MAP, TSP, Ammonium Sulphate (AS) and Single Super Phosphate (SSP) are provided to the farmers at the subsidized rates. The Government has now introduced a Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy in respect of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers w.e.f. 1.4.2010, which will replace the outgoing Concession Scheme for P&K fertilizers. Urea is also a subsidized fertilizer administered under the New Pricing Scheme (NPS).

(c) The amount of subsidy released by Department of Fertilizers during 2008-09 was Rs. 99494.71 crore, whereas it was Rs. 43319.16 crore during 2007-08.

(d) and (e) The subsidy outgo on fertilizers has increased substantially during the past few years with about 94% of the increase due to rise in international prices of fertilizers and inputs and only 6% is attributable to increase in consumption.

(f) and (g) The consumption of fertilizers during 2007-08 and 2008-09 were as follows:

Product/year	(in lakh tonnes)				
	In terms of nutrients (N+P+K)	Urea	DAP	MOP	Complexes
2007-08	225.70	261.67	75.55	28.28	65.53
2008-09	249.09	266.47	99.04	40.89	71.22

The food production during 2007-08 was 230.78 million tonnes and during 2008-09, it was 234.47 million tonnes.

(h) As stated above, Government has introduced Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy w.e.f. 1.4.2010.

Revival of FCIL units

1704. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken for revival of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) units at Talcher and Ramagundam;

- (b) the reasons for delay in operationalising these units; and
- (c) the reasons for preferential treatment to the Ramagundam unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The Government of India has decided to explore the feasibility of revival of the closed public sector fertilizer units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) including the Talcher and Ramagundam units of FCIL subject to assured availability of natural gas. The Government has constituted an Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS) with the mandate to evaluate all investment options for revival of the closed units of FCIL/HFCL and to make suitable recommendations for consideration of the Government. ECOS has already considered various possible investment options for revival of each of the closed units including Talcher and Ramagundam and have finalized its recommendations regarding the suitable financing option. The recommendations of ECOS are under consideration of the Government. No preferential treatment is being given to any specific unit.

Nutrient based subsidy

1705. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has adopted Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that NBS scheme has not been tested before its implementation; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for implementing such an untested scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the statement. [Refer to the statement appended to the Answer to starred question no. 221 (part) (a) and (b)]

(c) and (d) Before the Nutrient Based Subsidy was finalised and approved by the Government, wide consultations were held with the State Governments, fertilizer industries, concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India. Further, Nutrient Based Subsidy has been finalized after consideration and recommendation by the Group of Ministers.

Fixing price of subsidized fertilizers

1706. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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