

Setting up of farmer training institute

3099. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO) proposes to set up a farmer training institute in Orissa;

(b) if so, by when and the types of training proposed to be imparted to the farmers; and

(c) the steps taken in that regard and the number of such institutions proposed to be set up in the tribal districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) IFFCO proposes to set up a farmers training Institute near its phosphatic fertilizers Complex at Paradeep, Orissa.

(b) and (c) In the proposed institute, the farmers would be given training on best crop practices of cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetable and horticultural crops etc. fruit preservation, fish farming, dairy and poultry, maintenance of agricultural equipments, bee keeping etc. alongwith demonstration farms. IFFCO proposes to carry out extensive analysis of soil samples through this institute for improving the soil health and productivity of crops with balanced and integrated use of nutrients. IFFCO proposes to set up only one training institute near its plant at Paradeep to cater to the needs of farmers of Orissa. IFFCO has applied to Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa (IPICOL) for allotment of suitable land near the plant for the purpose. The allotment of land is pending with IPICOL.

Import of phosphorous and potash

3100. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to free import of phosphorous and potash after de-controlling the prices of fertilizers containing potash and phosphorous from this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has proposal for import of de-regulated phosphate and potash fertilizers in the open general licence which allows their free import; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) The import of Phosphorus (Rock Phosphate, Phosphoric acid and Phosphatic fertilizers) and Potash is already under the Open General License (OGL). The manufacturers/importers of decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers/inputs are free to import the fertilizers/raw materials as per their requirement. Government does not import Phosphatic and Potash fertilizers directly.