

(a) the total area of agricultural land as on date across the country, particularly in Rajasthan;

(b) the area of land that can be made arable; and

(c) whether serious efforts are being made by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) As per the available estimates, total agricultural land/arable land is 182.44 million ha. in the country, which includes 25.58 million ha. of arable land of the Rajasthan State. The barren and unculturable lands are located in isolated blocks or within cultivated holdings which includes all land covered by mountains, deserts, etc. is about 17.29 million ha. in the country. Such lands can only be brought partly under cultivation at an exorbitant cost, therefore, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture does not promote any comprehensive scheme/programme to develop barren lands for agricultural purposes.

Availability of rakes for transportation of fertilizers

†1097. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring urea in the category of decontrolled fertilizers;

(b) if so, by when the decision is expected in this regard;

(c) whether sufficient rakes are not available for transportation of fertilizers as per the demand of the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(d) whether Government is making any new arrangement in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Formulation of subsidy policy beyond New Pricing Scheme-III (NPS-III) is under consideration of Government.

(c) to (f) Ministry of Railways has been providing sufficient number of rakes for transportation of fertilizers to Madhya Pradesh. As a result, the cumulative availability of Urea, DAP & MOP during the year 2010-11 (April'10 to October'10) has been maintained over and above the assessed demand as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Qty. in lakh metric tones)

Product	2010-11		
	Requirement	Availability*	Sales*
Urea	855.18	863.23	858.45
DAP	779.93	826.88	789.00
MOP	101.81	103.07	95.58
Complex	261.02	249.67	243.85

* Including stock pre-positioned.

As can be seen, the availability of urea, DAP, MOP and complex (NPK) fertilizers has been adequate.

Permission for stocking up of urea

1098. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has asked for permission from Ministry to stock up urea for the coming rabi season;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Ministry on the above request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Smuggling of urea

†1099. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of smuggling of urea from the bordering States of the country to the neighbouring countries are on the rise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to check the smuggling of urea; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.