

(d) the number of urea smugglers arrested so far by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. There are reports of smuggling of fertilizers from India to neighbouring countries. However, these have not been confirmed by the State Governments. The Chief Secretaries in the States and Border Guarding Authorities like Border Security Force (BSF), Coast Guards and Custom authorities etc. have been alerted by Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Finance to keep strict vigil on such activities which may lead to illegal exports/smuggling of fertilizers and initiate stringent action against the persons involved in such malpractices under the provision of FCO, 1985.

The provision contained in Para 3 of Fertilizer (Movement Control) Order, 1973 -Prohibits the illegal export/smuggling of fertilizers. Instances of illegal export of Muriate of Potash (MOP) and Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) packed in the brand common Salt and Soda Ash from Gujarat has come to notice. The consignment has been seized by Custom Authorities at Kandla Port. Similarly, Government of Maharashtra has also intimated that the fertilizer is being exported illegally in the name of Soda Ash, Salt etc. This complaint was on the basis of seizure of about 4000 bags of 50 Kg. (each having imprinted as Soda Ash but containing DAP as per testing report) by the District Quality Control Inspector while inspecting the Godown of M/s Transworld Furtichem Pvt. Ltd., Roha, District, Raigad on 27th January, 2010. In this regard necessary legal proceedings are being initiated by the concerned authorities. Similarly in Karnataka, Bangalore customs have seized 1156 MT of MOP from six traders and have initiated legal proceedings. The respective State Government's will be taking appropriate action against offenders as per provisions of law.

Recently also, Department of Fertilizers has written to Chief Secretaries of the States having international boundaries for initiating action against person/persons involved in smuggling of fertilizers with the help of Central/State enforcement agencies.

Raising of floor price of urea

1100. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to raise the floor price of urea by 10 per cent in an attempt to make the production of urea more attractive for fertilizer companies as well as to attract new investment in this sector;

(b) whether Government has also worked out the revival package for sick fertilizer units at total investment of Rs.40,000 crores; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The various options to make the new investment policy more attractive for investments in the country are under examination of the department.

(b) and (c) An Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS) has been constituted by the Government to look into various options for revival of all the closed HFCL & FCIL Urea units in the country. The recommendations of ECOS are under consideration of the government.

Reopening of closed fertilizer units

†1101.SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many fertilizer manufacturing units have been closed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the decline in production and availability of fertilizers due to their closure;

(d) the action taken to ensure unhampered supply of fertilizers;

(e) whether any Empowered Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to investigate reopening of closed public sector fertilizer units; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Five Units of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and three Units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) in the public sector are lying closed. Following are the unit-wise details:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.