

- (a) whether Government has constituted a panel to decontrol the prices of urea;
- (b) if so, whether lacs of farmers would be affected by this move to Government; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The Government is examining various options of subsidy regime for Urea beyond NPS-III including timelines for implementing the same.

Diversion of fertilizers meant for farmers

1902. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the illegal diversion of fertilizers meant for farmers in the county;
- (b) if so, the details of such incidents reported in 2009 and 2010; and
- (c) the action Government has taken on those companies/individuals responsible for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) 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 persons involved in smuggling of fertilizers with the help of Central/State enforcement agencies.

Enactment to protect consumers' interest

1903. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to formulate a new law for safeguarding the interests of consumers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details and nature of the Body proposed to be constituted under the new law for dispensing justice to the consumers; and
- (d) the other steps taken to ensure speedy delivery of justice to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) A proposal to set up a National Consumer Protection Regulatory Authority is under consideration in consultation with all the stake holders. The same has so far not been finalized.

(d) The important steps being taken by the Central Government for speedy justice are as under:—

- (i) Financial assistance is being provided to the States/UTs for strengthening their infrastructure. 'CONFONET' scheme for computerization and networking of Consumer Fora across the country is also being implemented which is expected to bring about systematization of Consumer Fora and improve their efficiency.
- (ii) With an objective to facilitate the Fora in quicker disposal of cases, several provisions were made through Consumer Protection (Amendment) Act, 2002 which included enabling the Senior Most Member to preside over the Consumer Fora if the President is absent for any reasons, establishment of Circuit Benches of National Commission/State Commissions and providing for reappointment of President/Members of Consumer Fora.
- (iii) The Central Government has been requesting State Governments to take advance action for filling up expected vacancies of President and Members.