

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the present status of MAS in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Under the Marketing Assistance Scheme (MAS) of the Union Government, National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) Ltd., a public undertaking under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) acts as a facilitator to promote marketing efforts and enhance the competency of the MSMEs for capturing the new market opportunities by way of organizing/participating in various domestic and international exhibitions/trade fairs, buyers-seller meets, intensive campaigns and marketing promotion events, consortia formation, etc. The details of the guidelines of the scheme are available in the Ministry's website *i.e.*, [www.msme.gov.in](http://www.msme.gov.in).

Details of events organized by NSIC in the State of Tamil Nadu during current year *i.e.*, 2010-11 (upto October) are as under:—

Name of the events	Number of the events
Domestic Exhibitions	07
Support for Co-sponsoring of exhibitions organized by other organizations/industries associations/agencies	02
Buyer-Seller Meets	02
Intensive Campaigns and Marketing Promotion Events	41
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>52</b>

In addition to above, 4 units from the State of Tamil Nadu are participating in the ongoing 'TECHMART 2010' being organized by NSIC under the aegis of India International Trade Fair (IITF) at New Delhi during 14-27 November, 2010.

#### **Prices of fertilizers**

\*256. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether prices of fertilizers are increasing exorbitantly in the country, including in Bihar;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether international prices of Potassium (K) and Phosphorous (P) fertilizers and feedstock/raw materials are highly volatile, which might lead to more volatility and perhaps an increase in farm-gate-prices of these fertilizers;

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to specify a price band for P&K fertilizers so that prices do not go beyond the reach of farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) While over the last decade, Government have periodically increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for procurement, Maximum Retail Prices (MRPs) of Urea and Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers were constant since 2002 till 31.03.2010. MRPs of various grades of complex fertilizers were further reduced by an average of Rs. 1286 per MT *w.e.f.* 18.06.2008. Over the last few years, prices of fertilizers and fertilizer inputs in the international market have increased manifold. Government of India provides the gap between the total delivered cost of fertilizers and the MRP of fertilizers as subsidy. MRPs paid by the farmer have been much lower, maximum at about 40% than the total cost. Since MRPs were constant, Government absorbed the increase in prices so that the farmer is protected from the volatility in the international market. As such, there was no increase in the prices of fertilizers (MRPs) in the country, including Bihar upto 31.03.2010. Government of India, however, increased the MRP of Urea from Rs. 4830 per MT to Rs. 5310 per MT *w.e.f.* 01.04.2010, an increase of about 10%. For P&K fertilizers, Government has introduced Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy *w.e.f.* 01.04.2010 (*w.e.f.* 01.05.2010 for SSP) wherein the MRPs of the P&K fertilizers have been left open. However, subsidy under the NBS for 2010-11 for various P&K fertilizers has been fixed by the Government in such a manner that their MRPs do not affect the farmers adversely. *W.e.f.* 01.04.2010, MRPs of P&K fertilizers announced by the respective companies have shown an increase of an average of Rs. 30 per bag (Rs. 600 per MT) only over the MRPs that prevailed as on 31.03.2010 in the country, including Bihar. However, the price of Single Super Phosphate (SSP) has reduced by Rs. 70 per bag and the price of Muriate of Potash (MOP) remained unchanged upto September, 2010 and has increased by Rs. 30 per bag thereafter. In addition to the MRPs, part of the cost of fertilizers borne by the farmer in the country including Bihar also includes the local taxes/levies imposed by different State Governments. Government has announced that sale of fertilizers should not be above printed MRP and the same is punishable under the Essential Commodities Act. The State Governments have been asked to ensure that the fertilizers are sold at the MRP printed on the bags, failing which action can be taken under Essential Commodities Act.

(c) to (e) The international prices of Potassium (K) and Phosphorus (P) fertilizers and feedstock/raw materials are highly volatile. Details of the trend of the International prices of the fertilizers/intermediates/raw materials from 2006-07 to October, 2010 is given in Statement (*See* below). However, since the MRP of Urea is fixed by the Government, there is no impact of volatility of international prices for the farmer, except an increase in the MRP of Urea by the Government *w.e.f.* 01.04.2010 by 10% over the MRP that prevailed upto 31.03.2010. Further, since the MRPs of various P&K fertilizers were

indicated by the Government upto 31.03.2010, there was no impact of volatility of international prices for the farmer. *W.e.f.* 01.04.2010, however, MRPs of P&K fertilizers announced by the respective companies have shown an increase of an average of Rs. 30 per bag (Rs. 600 per MT) only over the MRPs that prevailed as on 31.03.2010 in the country, including Bihar. Even with increase in the MRPs of P&K fertilizers *w.e.f.* 01.04.2010 under the NBS, the farmer pays only 25%-40% of the total delivered cost. At present, the Government does not propose to specify a price band for P&K fertilizers and accordingly, the MRP of the subsidized P&K fertilizers will be open to be announced by the fertilizer companies. However, the manufacturers/importers are required to print MRPs (exclusive of local taxes/levies) alongwith applicable NBS per MT on fertilizer bags clearly. Any sale above the printed MRP is punishable under the Essential Commodities Act.

### *Statement*

*Details of the trend of the international prices of the fertilizers/intermediates/  
raw materials from 2006-07 to October, 2010*

#### **Price Trend in International market Fertilizer Market Bulletin (FMB)**

Month US \$	DAP C&F US	MOP FOB	Urea FOB	Phosacid India C&F	Ammonia C&F	Sulphur C&F	Rock C&F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>2006-07</b>	<b>342.14</b>	<b>171.29</b>	<b>270.29</b>	<b>461.25</b>	<b>304.29</b>	<b>76.37</b>	<b>79.14</b>
<b>2007-08</b>							
April-07	505.50	175.00	317.13	566.25	351.88	112.88	79.50
May-07	507.90	185.00	313.50	566.25	317.00	137.80	111.10
June-07	514.88	185.00	311.25	566.25	305.63	152.50	121.50
July-07	528.63	200.00	290.88	566.25	302.13	178.50	121.50
August-07	514.20	209.50	276.60	566.25	272.30	220.60	121.50
September-07	534.62	236.25	311.50	566.25	263.13	236.75	121.50
October-07	564.12	247.50	331.25	566.25	266.75	245.50	121.50
November-07	639.70	255.00	360.00	566.25	287.70	324.60	121.50
December-07	703.66	310.83	405.00	566.25	338.00	415.00	245.00
January-08	802.10	328.00	401.50	566.25	389.30	561.80	245.00
February-08	922.50	393.13	383.75	566.25	484.75	613.75	245.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
March-08	1153.00	434.37	392.00	566.25-1985	528.00	688.00	245.00
<b>Average 07-08</b>	<b>658.00</b>	<b>263.00</b>	<b>341.00</b>	<b>566.25</b>	<b>342.00</b>	<b>324.00</b>	<b>158.00</b>
<b>2008-09</b>							
April-08	1319.62	515.00	452.50	1985.00	529.00	697.00	425.00
May-08	1331.87	666.87	628.75	1985.00	533.37	744.25	433.75
June-08	1286.75	700.00	677.50	1985.00	489.75	831.25	460.00
July-08	1291.90	725.00	783.00	2200-2310	571.10	846.00	384.00
August-08	1268.88	857.50	815.00	2200-2310	720.38	768.75	362.50
September-08	1162.75	933.75	777.13	2200-2310	834.25	566.25	347.50
October-08	985.10	945.50	436.60	1920.00	675.50	202.50	347.50
November-08	654.00	917.50	254.38	1700-1920	289.50	64.63	352.50
December-08	441.00	917.50	246.38	1200-1920	181.25	58.50	352.50
January-09	372.88	917.50	268.38	760-1200	168.00	57.25	301.00
February-09	405.25	917.50	302.13	760	195.50	53.50	NM
March-09	414.00	767.50	305.63	650-760	261.00	57.00	NM
<b>Average 08-09</b>	<b>911.17</b>	<b>824.44</b>	<b>495.62</b>	<b>650-2310</b>	<b>454.05</b>	<b>412.24</b>	<b>376.63</b>
<b>2009-10</b>							
April-09	374.00	766.43	278.00	630.00	295.50	64.00	133.50*
May-09	347.33	717.50	264.63	630.00	292.25	61.75	154.38*
June-09	332.63	705.63	260.88	490-630	250.88	61.50	183.75**
July-09	347.90	594.00	266.10	490-508	227.30	57.00	182.50**
August-09	368.25	480.00	272.25	501-506	244.25	57.00	182.50**
September-09	370.88	480.00	257.88	508-530	280.25	65.00	139.38**
October-09	351.70	471.50	261.50	525-532.50	313.10	65.40	141.00**
November-09	347.75	451.25	270.00	525-532.50	335.88	71.63	136.88**
December-09	407.50	415.00	288.13	525-532.50	330.75	88.38	112**
January-10	499.13	381.25	306.88	610-627.50	327.88	139.50	142.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
February-10	556.25	360.00	310.00	627.5-690	354.13	199.00	142.50
March-10	546.00	353.75	307.50	690-775	385.38	208.50	142.50
<b>Average 09-10</b>	<b>404.26</b>	<b>514.69</b>	<b>278.64</b>	<b>490-775</b>	<b>303.13</b>	<b>94.89</b>	<b>149.45</b>
April-10	536.60	347.50	285.00	775.00	398.80	192.10	145.80
May-10	528.00	338.75	256.25	775.00	365.63	159.88	159.00
June-10	510.13	330.00	239.00	775.00	349.13	116.00	159.00
July-10	508.60	330.00	261.90	780.00	336.10	93.40	160.40
August-10	547.38	330.00	285.00	780.00	346.38	141.13	162.50
September-10	581.90	336.00	316.50	780.00	375.30	177.30	162.50
October-10	617.38	343.75	361.25	780.00	411.88	186.88	162.50

NM : No Market

MP : Multiple Prices

\*Rock of low grade, 65-66% (BPL)

\*\*Rock 70%-72% BPL

\*\*\*(-) 2 to (+) 5

### Incidents of ragging in educational institutions

\*257. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite clear directions of the Supreme Court and instructions from Government, ugly and indecent ragging continues to take place in universities, colleges and institutions;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents during 2009 and 2010 and the number of culprits booked and punished;

(c) the details of institutions and their officials reprimanded for dereliction of their duties in the above cases; and

(d) the steps Government proposes to take to ensure that no ugly or indecent ragging incidents take place in future?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) It is a matter of concern that incidents of ragging are reportedly taking place in higher educational institutions even at present. While no information in respect of incidents of ragging was being maintained in the previous years, the Toll-free Anti-ragging National Helpline established by the University Grants Commission (UGC) since 20/06/2009 has enabled collection of information in regard to such incidents as are brought to the attention of the helpline.