THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Advanced technology is essential for production of chemicals and fertilizers, in order to make the product more competitive in the international market and to have sustainable growth of the sector. These companies also adopt and adhere to safe operating practices for healthy work environment.

(b) and (c) While persistent and prolonged use of chemicals exceeding permissible limits could cause health impacts, no specific information has been received regarding the ill effects of chemicals and petrochemicals produced in India on human health and environment. Imbalanced use of fertilizers, coupled with low addition of organic manure and neglect of micro and secondary nutrients over years have however, resulted in deterioration of soil health in many parts of the country, particularly in intensively cultivated areas of Indo-Gangetic plains.

(d) Government is advocating soil test based balanced and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through conjunctive use of both in-organic and organic sources of plant nutrients like Farm Yard Manure (FYM), compost, bio-fertilizers and green manuring.

Government has launched the "National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSHF)" during 2008-09 to promote soil test based judicious use of fertilizers for improving soil health and fertility. The scheme includes setting up of new static/mobile soil testing laboratories, strengthening of existing soil testing demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers, promoting use of organic manure, soil amendments and micro-nutrients. Funds amounting to Rs. 1662.25 lakh, 3796.00 lakh and Rs. 1689.848 lakh have been released to States under the scheme during 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively.

Fertilizer plants comply with all the environmental standards prescribed by central and State statutory authorities including ambient air quality standards and effluent water standards. In addition to meeting statutory standards, fertilizer units have also taken initiatives like adopting voluntary standards ISO 14001 and OSHAS 18001 to ensure healthy environment in and around the plants.

Monitoring mechanism under MPLADS

772. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the monitoring mechanism for effective implementation of MPLAD Scheme was non-existent; and

(b) whether Government would agree that the implementation of the scheme was therefor fraught with dangers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No, Sir. The Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is administered through a set of Guidelines which specifies the authority and responsibility of the Central Government, the State/UT Governments, the District Authorities and the Implementing Authority. Apart from regular review of implementation of MPLADS works at the Central, the State/UT Government and the district levels, NABARD Consultancy Services (NABCONS), an independent agency has been engaged to conduct physical monitoring of works executed under MPLAD Scheme. NABCONS has conducted physical monitoring in 208 districts since 2007-08, based on 50 randomly selected works, in each of the districts in phased manner.

(b) No, Sir. The NABCONS has found that the MPLAD Scheme is a unique Scheme, having the characteristic features of decentralized development and has resulted in creation of good quality assets, which have had a positive impact on the local economy, social fabric and the physical environment. NABCONS has reported that 86% of sample works had a positive impact on the social structure/social fabric of local community and there was no negative impact of any sort due to any project in different sectors.

Utilisation of unspent fund under MPLADS

773. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently hiked annual allocation of Members of Parliament under MPLAD Scheme;

(b) if so, whether Government is aware that a big amount of MPLADS fund is lying unspent with the district authorities;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the steps Government proposes to take to utilize the unspent and undistributed funds which is lying with the district authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The Government has approved the enhancement of the annual allocation of MPLADS fund from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 5 crore per MP from the financial year 2011-12.

(b) As reported by the District Authorities in the monthly progress reports for period ending 30.6.2011, an amount of Rs. 2627.98 crore was lying unspent with the District Authorities.

(c) The State-wise unspent balances are given in the Statement (*See* below).