

investments in urea sector. The policy is based on Import Parity Price (IPP) benchmark with suitable floor and ceiling prices aiming to revamp, expansion, revival of existing urea units and setting up of Greenfield projects. The policy aims to substantially bridge the gap between consumption and domestic production of urea subject to adequate availability of gas at reasonable prices. In case of P&K fertilizers the country is almost fully dependent on imports, by way of either imports of raw material/intermediates or import of finished P&K fertilizers. However Government has taken initiatives to encourage indigenous production in P&K sector by reducing the custom duty on phosphoric acid from 5% to 2% to enable indigenous manufacturers of P&K fertilizers to procure this important input at reasonable price. The Nutrient Based subsidy has also been announced on P&K fertilizers *w.e.f.* 01.04.2010. Government is also encouraging private sector and public sector companies to explore the possibilities for joint ventures abroad to ensure uninterrupted supply of fertilizer inputs to P&K sector

Production of bio-fertilizers

520. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the study made by the Ministry regarding production of bio-fertilizers in the country;
- (b) the production of bio-fertilizers during last three years, year-wise; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Ministry to encourage farmers to use organic manures alongwith bio-fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) National Centre of Organic Farming under Department of Agriculture and Cooperation collects production reports submitted by licenced producers of the country. Study of data available indicates that bio-fertilizers use is increasing but the total area covered under bio-fertilizer use is less than 3% of total cultivable area in the country.

(b) The total production of bio-fertilizers, was 25,065 MT, 20,040 MT and 37,998 MT during 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively.

(c) Use of organic manures and bio-fertilizers is being promoted through various schemes such as National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North-East and Himalayan States (HMNEHS) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

New drugs under price control regime

521. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more drugs are being brought under the price control regime;