

Import of fertilizers

519. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the value of import of different fertilizers during each of the last three years; and
- (b) the efforts made/being made by Government to reduce the foreign exchange outgo on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Urea is the only fertilizer under statutory price control and it is imported for direct agriculture use on Government account through State Trading Enterprises (STEs) *i.e.* MMTC, STC and IPL to bridge the gap between assessed demand and indigenous production. Government is also importing approximately 20 LMT urea from Oman India Fertilizer Company (OMIFCO) under Long-Term Urea Off Take Agreement (UOTA) between GoI and OMIFCO. The import of urea from OMIFCO is made through M/s IFFCO and M/s KRIBHCO. The year-wise value of urea imported on Government account during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Value (Million US \$)
2008-09	2416.00
2009-10	1212.65
2010-11	1832.50

Fertilizers other than Urea are imported under Open General Licence (OGL). Companies import these fertilizers as per their commercial judgment. Government do not maintain the value of these imports. However, Government is paying subsidy on P&K fertilizers under Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme. The year-wise subsidy paid on P&K fertilizers during the last three years are as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Subsidy paid on decontrolled P & K fertilizers (Indigenous and Imported)
2008-2009	65554.79
2009-2010	39452.06
2010-2011	41500.00

- (b) Government is always encouraging production of fertilizers in the country to achieve self-sufficiency. A new policy was announced on 4th September, 2008 to attract new

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;