

that the merger of BSNL and MTNL is recommended as a desirable goal. However, before merger, the issues arising from MTNL being a listed company, financing of costs involved in the merger and HR issues, e.g. differences in pension administration mechanism, pay scales and other HR policies of the two organizations need to be essentially addressed first. Since resolution of these issues would be time consuming, therefore, at this stage, creation and recognition of synergistic alliance of these organizations needs to be encouraged through appropriate policy interventions and support for optimum utilization of their resources and strengths to their mutual benefit.

Subsidy on import of fertilizers

†*416. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, till last year Government itself used to fix Maximum Retail Price of fertilizers subsequent to providing subsidy on import of fertilizers as per Government's policy;

(b) whether this year, Government by substituting the word 'New Trend Base Subsidy' for the word 'subsidy' has given the right of deciding Maximum Retail Price post-subsidy to companies and subsequent to this the companies hiked the price of fertilizer by Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 per sack, and earned a profit of rupees ten thousand crore annually;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the companies which have benefited from this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) Government used to fix Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of Phosphatic and Potassic (P & K) fertilizers prior to implementation of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy. NBS Policy was implemented from 1.4.2010.

The MRP of Urea continues to be fixed by Government.

(b) to (d) Under the NBS Policy, a fixed subsidy decided on annual basis, is provided on each grade of P&K fertilizers based on its nutrient content. The MRP of P&K fertilizers is fixed by manufactures/importers based on market conditions.

India is completely dependent on imports for Potassic Fertilizers and to the extent of 90% in case of Phosphatic fertilizers. Any change in the international prices of these fertilizers and their raw materials or the exchange rate, therefore, has a direct bearing on the domestic retail prices.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

During the first year (2010-11) of implementation of NBS Policy, there was slight increase in MRP of P&K fertilizers. In the year 2011-12, inspite of increase in subsidy, the prices of P&K fertilizers in the country increased as a result of increase in international prices of fertilizers and its raw materials. The depreciation of Indian rupee further added to this increase. However, the prices have stabilized since 3rd quarter of the year 2011-12 and are expected to remain stable during the year 2012-13. Any favourable movement in the international prices or the exchange rate will result in further softening of retail prices in the country..

The NBS policy is applicable to all manufacturers or importers, uniformly. The impact of the policy may vary depending on their individual circumstances, and also the pricing and procurement decisions of various companies.

NCERT

*417. DR. RAM PRAKASH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total budget allocated in current financial year for academic programmes of NCERT Headquarters;

(b) the total salary, TA/DA, etc. and expenditure incurred on academic staff of NCERT Headquarters during 2011-12;

(c) the total number of posts of Assistant Professors, Associate Professors and Professors filled in NCERT Headquarters as on date, category-wise and year-wise and number of vacant posts of these categories; and

(d) the total number of academic programmes finalized by NCERT for current financial year with proposed budget, number of participants and number of resource persons of each programme, department-wise and field-wise and academic programmes organised during the financial year 2011-12?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) The total budget allocated for the current financial year in respect of academic programmes of the NCERT Headquarters is Rs. 10.49 Crores.

(b) The details of salary, TA/DA etc. for the year 2011-12 in respect of academic staff of NCERT Headquarters is as under:

Basic Salary and Allowances	Rs. 14.42 Crores
TA/DA	Rs. 0.62 Crores

(c) The details in respect of posts of Assistant Professors, Associate Professors and Professors in NCERT Headquarters as on 30.04.2012 category-wise is as under: