

MOP

Season	Opening Stock	Production	Import	Total Availability
Kharif 05	3.93	0.0	18.9	22.83
Rabi 05-06*	5.57	0.0	19.26	24.83

*Estimated

(c) With the objective of making available fertilizers to farmers at affordable prices, urea, being the only controlled fertilizer, is sold at statutorily notified maximum retail price (MRP), and the decontrolled phosphate and potassic fertilizers, such as DAP, MOP and NPK complexes are sold at indicative MRPs. MRP of single super phosphate is indicated by the respective State Governments. As the cost of production of fertilizers is generally more than the MRP/indicative MRPs, the benefit of subsidy/concession on fertilizers is passed on to the farmers in the form of making them available fertilizers at subsidized selling prices.

Damage due to contaminants surrounding Union Carbide

1080. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to claim damages from Dow Chemical or Union Carbide Corporation for environmental destruction and for health damages caused to more than 20,000 residents due to reckless dumping of hazardous wastes in line with the "polluter pays" principle affirmed many times over by the Supreme Court of India; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for scientific assessment of the depth and spread of the contaminants in the surrounding areas of Union Carbide Corporation in Bhopal?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The litigation related to Bhopal Gas Tragedy reached the Supreme Court of India in 1988 and the Supreme Court finally settled the litigation and settlement vide its orders dated 14th and 15th February, 1989. Under the settlement, Union Carbide was asked to pay a compensation of US \$ 470 million to the Union of India in full settlement of all claims, rights and liabilities related to and arising out of the Bhopal Gas Disaster. The Union Carbide Corporation has already deposited this amount. However, the issue relating to the removal of the toxic wastes left stored in the UCIL factory at the time of the closure of the

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RAJYA SABHA

factory in 1984 is currently the subject matter of a Public Interest Litigation in Writ Petition No. 2802/2004 filed in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh. The Government of India has filed an application for directing UCC or its present owner companies i.e. Dow Chemical Company, USA, to deposit an amount of Rs. 100 crore as advance with the Madhya Pradesh High Court for carrying out removal/disposal of toxic wastes lying at the UCIL plant site at Bhopal, as per Rule 16 of the Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989, under which "polluter pays" principle is enshrined:

(b) The High Court of Madhya Pradesh has constituted a Task Force to monitor the removal/disposal of toxic wastes lying in and around the UCIL plant site at Bhopal under the chairmanship of Secretary (C&PC), with experts from National Environment Engineering Research Institute, Indian "Institute of Chemical Technology and Central Pollution Control Board. These institutes/agencies have been asked to submit their reports to the Task Force on the treatment required for the removal/disposal of the toxic wastes laying at the UCIL plant site at Bhopal along with the report on the level of contamination of ground water in the surrounding areas.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

1081. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) is implemented in all the States and UTs in order to ensure supply of wheat/rice at very negligible cost to the poorest people;

(b) the feature of AAY;

(c) the number of beneficiaries targeted under AAY *vis-a-vis* actually reached, year-wise since 2000 and 2001, State-wise/UT-wise;

(d) the volume of foodgrains supplied during the period and quantities utilized for the purpose, State-wise/UT-wise;

(e) whether any review of AAY has been carried out to ascertain the quality of its delivery system effectiveness is decreasing hunger and incidents of acute malnutrition among children and women in poorest families, etc.; and

(f) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. I order to provide foodgrains to the poorest of