

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 24th August, 2012, 2nd Bhadra, 1934 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 181 ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down.
...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत (मध्य प्रदेश): सभापति जी, हमें प्रधानमंत्री से इस्तीफा चाहिए
...*(व्यवधान)*... ऐसे प्रधानमंत्री का क्या फायदा ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: बैठ जाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*... Please allow the Question Hour to proceed
...*(Interruptions)*... Are there any supplementaries? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHANTRAM NAIK (Goa): Please take up Question No.182. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री पुरुषोत्तम खोडाभाई रूपाला (गुजरात): प्रधानमंत्री जी से इस्तीफा दिलाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: बैठ जाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*... रूपाला जी, बैठ जाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

The House is adjourned till 12.00 hours.

The House then adjourned at two minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Import of urea

†*181. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been decided in the context of Urea import that it will be imported through Government undertakings like MMTC, STC, etc. but Coromandal company of south India was given licence for direct import by violating this rule to benefit the company;

(b) whether this company got yearly profit of about four thousand crore rupees therefor;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the action being taken by the ministry and the Government on such a big scam; and

(d) the rule for giving licence for direct purchase and the number of companies invited in the instant case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Import of Urea in the country is restricted and permitted through State Trading Enterprises (STEs) i.e. MMTC Limited, State Trading Corporation Limited (STC) and Indian Potash Limited (IPL). The Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) provides that Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) may grant an authorisation to any other person/company to import the goods covered under STE provisions. Import of urea for direct agriculture use is made on Government account through these STEs. The urea imported on Government account for direct agriculture use is sold to the farmers at statutory notified Maximum Retail Price (MRP) and the difference between cost incurred and MRP is borne by Government as subsidy on imported urea.

Besides import of urea on Government account, the urea is also imported for manufacturing of complex fertilizers and for non-agriculture uses. The complex fertiliser manufacturers in the country are importing urea for manufacturing of various grades of complex fertilizers in their plants either through STEs or direct from the global sources by obtaining licence from DGFT. Government, on the request of Coromandel International Limited (CIL) has allowed them to import urea directly for manufacturing of complex fertilizers in their plant at Vishakhapatnam/Kakinada as per the provisions of FTP. M/s CIL is importing about 2.50 lakh to 3.00 lakh MTs urea per annum for manufacturing of complex fertilizers in their plant at Vishakhapatnam/Kakinada directly after obtaining licence from DGFT.

(b) and (c) The import of urea by any person or company for manufacturing of complex fertilizers or for non-agriculture use in the country either directly or through any of the STEs have no impact on Government exchequer as government does not pay any subsidy for such imports.

(d) Para 2.11 of the Foreign Trade Policy prides that "Any goods, import or export of which is governed through exclusive or special privileges granted to STE(s), may be imported or exported by STE(s) as per conditions specified in ITC (HS). DGFT may, however, grant an Authorisation to any other person to import or export any of these goods." The companies other than STEs to whom direct urea import is allowed during the year 2011-12 & 2012-13 are as under:

Company	(Quantity in lakh MT)			
	2011-12		2012-13	
	Permission	Actual imports	(Up to July 2012) Permission	Actual imports
CIL	2.70	1.83	3.40	Nil
Zuari Holdings Ltd.	-	-	1.00	Nil
Avestra Chemical India (P) Ltd.	2.50	NA*	-	-

* Not Available

Postal Department Projects in Goa

*182. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- the State of Goa in the organizational set up of Postal Department;
- the total amount spent on the postal network/activities, including infrastructure, during the last three years, in the States of Goa and Maharashtra, respectively; and
- the improvements/upgradations/projects undertaken by the Postal Department in the State of Goa during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) In the organizational setup of the Department of Posts, Goa is a region under the charge of a Post Master General who reports to Chief Post Master General, Maharashtra Postal Circle. Apart from the state of Goa, the Goa region has some parts of Maharashtra State under its jurisdiction.

The total amount spent in Maharashtra Postal Circle and Goa region during the last three years is as below:

Name of the Circle/Region	Revenue Expenditure			Capital Expenditure		
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
	(Rs. in crore)					
Maharashtra	1421.07	1434.85	1527.90	14.49	11.51	9.77
Goa	170.88	179.28	191.75	0	0.91	0.92
TOTAL	1591.95	1614.13	1719.65	14.49	12.42	10.69