

Installation of REAPs

2204. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would launch pilot projects for commissioning of Renewal Energy Assisted Pumps (REAPs) in States where agricultural operations are badly hit due to shortage of power;

(b) if so, whether such pumps could be installed in six districts like Yavatmal of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra where farmers are committing suicides due to very low crop production on account of acute scarcity of water; and

(c) whether the technology developed by BSES Yamuna Power Ltd., in collaboration with IIT Delhi, would be studied by ICAR to identify areas for installation of such pumps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is currently providing financial assistance for installation of solar photo voltaic water pumps under the Off-grid Solar Applications Scheme of Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission. Solar pumping system upto 5 kWp for agricultural, horticultural, irrigation and drinking water supply are eligible for 30% subsidy limited to Rs.57,000/- per kWp under this scheme. The above scheme is operational in all districts of the country including six districts like Yavatmal of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra.

(c) ICAR has found the technology developed by BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. found suitable for pumping groundwater for irrigation or drinking purposes especially in areas with adequate duration of sunshine.

Hike in fertilizer prices

2205. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current price of D.A.P. is nearly ₹ 1300/- per bag compared to about ₹ 500 last year;

(b) whether the price of 12/32/16 N.P.K. has risen from about ₹ 460/- per bag last year to about ₹ 1200/- per bag this year; of 10/26/26 N.P.K. from about ₹ 430/- to about ₹ 1200/- and of N.P.K. 20/20/23 from about ₹ 380/- to over ₹ 1000/- per bag;

(c) whether the price of Potash has increased from about ₹ 270/- to nearly ₹ 900/- per bag; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to ensure balance in fertilizer prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The current highest price of DAP is nearly Rs.1300 per bag as compared to Rs.900 per bag last year.

(b) The present and last year's highest Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of the NPK fertilizers mentioned in the question are as under:—

(In Rupees)

Sl. No.	Grades of fertilizers	*Highest MRP per bag during 2012-13	*Highest MRP per bag during 2011-12
1	12-32-16	820	1115
2	10-26-26	819	1110
3	20-20-0-13	790	950

*The MRPs indicated in the table are exclusive of local taxes.

(c) The current price of MOP is around Rs.900 per bag as compared to around Rs.600 per bag last year.

(d) Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy is being implemented on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers under which a fixed subsidy decided on annual basis, is provided based on its nutrient content. The MRP is fixed by fertilizer companies. The prices of fertilizers in the year 2012-13 have increased mainly due to depreciation of Indian Rupee. In addition the international prices of fertilizers keep on fluctuating, which is not under the control of the Government. The Government is providing subsidy on P&K fertilizers to the extent of 50 to 67% of the delivered cost to make them affordable to the farmers.

Urea is provided at a fixed MRP of Rs.5310 per MT since 1.4.2010.

Viability of funding projects of NIPER

2206. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sanctioned/disbursed Government fundings, project-wise, alongwith the project objectives to various National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs);

(b) whether Government makes periodical assessment, project-wise, regarding continuity of the viability of these projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?