

- (a) whether sub-standard urea is being provided to farmers thereby damaging their agricultural produce;
- (b) whether fertilizer quality testing infrastructure in the country is grossly inadequate;
- (c) the number of samples of Urea tested during the last three years and how many of them were found sub-standard; and
- (d) the steps taken to check sale of substandard Urea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) No large scale cases of sale of sub-standard urea has been reported and the Fertilizer Quality Testing Infrastructure in the country is not grossly inadequate. Presently, there are 74 Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCL) in the country (including 4 under the control of Central Government) with a total annual analyzing capacity of 1,30,450 samples. During Eleventh Plan, 14 new FQCL have been established in various States, with the financial assistance from Government of India, which are expected to start functioning shortly. It will help in increasing the fertilizer testing capacity in the country.

The details regarding number of Urea samples tested during last three years and found non standard are as follows:

Year	Urea samples analyzed	Found Non-Standard	% Non-Standard (urea)
2009-10	18747	83	0.44
2010-11	18215	132	0.72
2011-12	20313	117	0.58

(d) Clause 19 of Fertilizer Control Order strictly prohibits the sale of fertilizer which is not of prescribed standard. The State Governments are primarily enforcement agencies and are adequately empowered to take appropriate action in case of violation of the provisions of FCO. The penal provision includes prosecution of offender with an imprisonment upto 7 years under the EC Act besides cancellation of authorization certificate/certificate of producer/dealer and other administrative action.

Standardisation of question papers and marking in board exams

*298. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether school education system, especially Board exams, have come under scrutiny over the last few years, with the cut off marks for admission in premier colleges being as high as 100 per cent, creating huge pressure for students;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Boards of school education have agreed to introduce a common design for question papers to remove disparity;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the move is aimed at helping students with standardisation of question papers as well as marking; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (f) It is a fact that the cut off marks based on performance in class XII Board Examination for admission in some premier institutions/universities have been rising in certain courses.

The Senior Secondary Examinations are conducted by various National and State Boards of School Education. The State Boards are responsible to the respective State Governments.

As far as Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is concerned it has taken the following measures to standardise question papers and marking of board examinations:

- Publication of sample papers, blueprint and design of each question paper
- Supply of multiple sets of question papers having equal difficulty level during examination
- Feed-back from Principals and teachers on question papers
- Details of marking scheme are made available before evaluation
- Instructions are given to the examiners to evaluate answer books strictly as per Marking Scheme of CBSE. 10% of answer books selected randomly are evaluated by the Head Examiners.

Council of Boards of School Education in India (COBSE), with the aim of standardisation for helping students, has initiated the exercise for developing a common design of the question papers in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology for all the School Education Boards.

Setting up of new abattoirs

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

- (a) the targets fixed for setting up of new abattoirs during the Twelfth Five Year Plan;