

Rise in the price of fertilizers

2211. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether farmers in the country are unable to secure fertilizers an account of prohibitive cost which results in low agricultural yield;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) the reasons for rise in price of fertilizers during last three years; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to check the rise in prices of fertilizers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) It is seen that there has been lesser sales of P&K fertilizers during April to July, 2012 as compared to the corresponding period in the last two years. Reduced sales of P&K fertilizers may be due to various factors including deficient monsoon and prevailing prices of fertilizers. However, the sale of Urea has remained more or less the same during this period.

(c) and (d) Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) policy is being implemented on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers under which a fixed amount of subsidy decided on annual basis, is provided on all grades of subsidized P&K fertilizers depending upon its nutrient contents. The range of MRP of P&K fertilizers during the Kharif season (Feb. to July, 2012) given in Statement (*See* below).

Since the country is dependent on imports of P&K fertilizers either in the form of finished fertilizers or its raw materials, the delivered prices of P&K fertilizers are also dependent on international prices of P&K fertilizers and its raw materials and exchange rate of India Rupees against US\$.

During the year 2010-11, the international prices of P&K fertilizers and its raw materials increased marginally and exchange rate remained stable, therefore, the prices of P&K fertilizers in the country increased marginally.

During the year 2011-12, in spite of increase in the rates of subsidy, the prices of P&K fertilizers rose due to increase in international prices of P&K fertilizers and increase in exchange rate.

During the year 2012-13, the prices of P&K fertilizers have increased mainly due to depreciation of Indian Rupees from around Rs. 50 per US\$ in March, 2012 to more than Rs.56 per US\$ in June, 2012.

It is seen that the prices of P&K fertilizers have increased mainly due to increase in international prices of P&K fertilizers on which the Government has no control and also the depreciation of Indian Rupee.

The price of urea however, has remained unchanged at Rs. 5310/- per tonne since April, 2010.

Statement

Fertilizers are available to the following range of MRPs during Kharif season 2012

Sl. No.	Fertilizer Grade	MRP of fertilizers dispatched during Feb to July, 2012	
		Minimum	Maximum
1	2	3	4
1.	DAP: 18-46-0-0	13819	25316
2.	DAP lite (16-44-0-0)	13820	23729
3.	DAP Lite Group II	18300	24800
4.	MAP: 11-52-0-0	11900	24200
5.	MAP Lite	15140	18000
6.	TSP: 0-46-0-0	17000	17000
7.	MOP:0-0-60-0	11000	23100
8.	23-23-0-0	NA	NA
9.	20-20-0-0	10100	18700
10.	28-28-0-0	14346	24720
11.	24-24-0-0	14297	16223
12.	10-26-26-0	14100	22209
13.	12-32-16	16000	22300
14.	14-28-14-0	NA	NA
15.	14-35-14	17429	23300
16.	15-15-15	11500	15600
17.	17-17-17	19470	20427
18.	19-19-19	13826	19470
19.	16-16-16-0	15200	15200
20.	AS: 20.6-0-0-23	7577	11013

1	2	3	4
21.	SSP	6000	10420
22.	16-20-0-13	14100	15300
23.	20-20-0-13	14135	19000
24.	NPK 13:33:0:6	13729	17400
25.	15-15-15-09	14851	15000
26.	Urea	5310	5310

Broadband connectivity for villages

2212. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to provide broadband connectivity to villages for establishing e-governance in village panchayats;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the number of villages covered under the scheme as on date and the time by when all the villages are likely to be covered with broadband connectivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) The Government has approved the scheme for creation of National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) on 25th October, 2011, for providing Broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats through Optical Fibre Cable. The connectivity to Gram panchayats will be provided through this network for establishing e-governance.

NOFN project will be executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) *i.e.* Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), a company incorporated under Indian Companies Act 1956 fully owned by Central Government, with equity participation from Government, BSNL, Railtel and Powergrid. The Company has been incorporated on 25.2.2012 for this purpose. Presently, the pilots are being conducted in Paravada block of Vishakhapatnam district in Andhra Pradesh. Arian block of Ajmer district in Rajasthan and Panisagar block of North Tripura district in Tripura.

(c) All the Gram Panchayats in the country will be covered under the scheme. The project is to be completed in two years' time.