

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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Fertilizer Fund

2207. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a Working Group of the Planning Commission has recommended for setting up of a Fertilizer Fund with an amount of ‘ 25,000 crores;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the aims and objectives of the proposed Fund; and
- (d) the other recommendations made by the Working Group with regard to import of fertilizers and to overcome the shortage of fertilizers domestically?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) No 'Fertilizer Fund' as such has been visualized.

(d) Regarding import of fertilizers, the Working Group has indicated that since India is dependent on imported raw materials and intermediates for phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilizers and is devoid of any substantial economically exploitable reserves of P&K raw materials, sufficient supplies of raw materials and intermediates for P&K sector over a sustained period has to be ensured.

The Indian companies need to invest outside in the resources rich countries by way of joint ventures in new mining capacities, production of phosphoric acid, production of finished fertilizers, long term buy back arrangement with present suppliers etc. This will not only provide some control over the world resources but will also help in stabilising the international prices. In parallel, intensive Research and Development (R&D) to explore the possibility of extraction of inputs from other natural resources in the country like marine, land could be initiated specially for potash.

To overcome shortages of fertilizers, the Working Group has recommended that new investments need to be attracted to the special economic zones where fiscal benefits are provided to attract investments. Besides fiscal benefits, the fertilizer industry could be provided incentives as under:

- (i) Exemptions from various taxes, such as income tax, custom duties, central excise duties and service tax.
- (ii) Viability gap funding for investments in new projects in India and abroad.