

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is in the nature of a minimum guaranteed price for the farmers offered by the Government for their produce in case the market prices fall below that level. If the market offers higher price than MSP, the farmers are free to sell at that price.

Gross Capital Formation (investment) in agriculture relative to Gross Domestic Product(GDP) in this sector has increased from 16.1 % in 2004-05 to 20.1 % in 2010-11 at 2004-05 prices. Government is implementing various programmes/schemes, *inter-alia*, with the objective of improving productivity, profitability and economic viability of farming, namely Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) etc.

Awareness programme on sustainable use of groundwater

799. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently launched an awareness programme to educate farmers on sustainable use of groundwater resources in rainfed area of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has launched this programme through print/electronic media for the farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the success achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has been conducting mass awareness programme for promoting rain water harvesting, artificial recharge and water conservation in different parts of the country involving Central/State agencies, Non-Government voluntary/Resident-Welfare Organizations, educational institutions, industries, farmers, individuals etc. for sustainable use of groundwater resources. So far 455 mass awareness campaigns have been organized by CGWB.

Central Ground Water Authority organizes campaigns on rain water harvesting, ground water pollution, water conservation etc. through Doordarshan/All India Radio/print media, release of postage-stamp/post-cards/booklets, display of hoardings on water conservation/rain water harvesting at prominent public places.

(e) These efforts have led to overall improvement in ground water use and also an increase in ground water development from 58% in 2004 to 61% in 2009. During the same period percentage of Blocks/Mandals/Talukas categorized as overexploited, critical and semi critical has gone down from 29% to 26%.

Availability of fertilizers DAP and urea to farmers

†800. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fertilizers, DAP and Urea 20:20:0 and 15:15:0 were made available to the farmers as per their demands in all states in the year, 2012;

(b) if so, the details of fertilizers supplied to each state, district-wise;

(c) whether farmers are not able to get sufficient supply of fertilizers every year despite it being utmost essential and necessary for them;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether new fertilizers units have been opened in the country during the last three years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The demand (requirement) assessed by Department of Agriculture (DAC) and availability of Urea, DAP, MOP and NPK in all the state in the year 2012 (April, 2012 to October, 2012) are given in Statement (See below).

As can be seen from the Annexure, the availability of all the Fertilizers during the year is comfortable. Department of Fertilizers (DOF) does not monitor the grade-wise requirement *vis-a-vis* availability of NPK fertilizer. However, as can be seen from the Annexure that availability of NPK fertilizer is quite comfortable.

The Department of Fertilizers monitors the availability of Fertilizer at State level. The monitoring within state is the responsibility of the respective state Government.

(e) and (f) No, new Fertilizer unit has been opened in the country during last three years. However, one Greenfield project *viz.* Matix Fertilizers and Chemical Ltd. is being established at Panagarh (Distt. Burdwan, West Bengal).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.