

Home affairs, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Directorate General of Mines Safety and Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation, a subordinate office of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. The Committee deliberated issues concerning regulation of ammonium nitrate in its two meetings. The Committee prepared the draft Ammonium Nitrate Rules, 2011, for regulating the manufacturing, conversion, import, export, stevedoring, bagging, transport and possession for sale or use of the Ammonium Nitrate all over India.

(c) Objections and suggestions received from concerned stakeholders on the said draft rules, have been duly considered by the Central Government and the Ammonium Nitrate Rules, 2012 have been finalized and notified under the Explosives Act, 1884, *vide* Notification No.GSR No. 553(E) on 11.7.2012 in order to regulate the manufacturing, storage, sale, use transportation, import and export of ammonium nitrate.

(d) As per Rule 5 of the Ammonium Nitrate Rules, 2012, all the existing manufacturers, converters, users, transporters, stevedores, sellers, possessors, importers and exporters were to apply for license within six months from the date of notification of Rules and have to comply with the provisions of these rules within a period of one year from the date of publication of these rules. The total number of manufacturers of Ammonium Nitrate would be known on the completion of licensing process. However, as per information available, there are six major manufacturers of Ammonium Nitrate in India.

(e) Various safeguards have been provided in the Ammonium Nitrate Rules, 2012 for ensuring legitimate use of Ammonium Nitrate including for agriculture activities. District Magistrates are authorized to grant license in Form P-3 to possess for use Ammonium Nitrate for agricultural purpose from a storehouse. Adequate warnings and stipulations are specified in the form for issue of license for possession of Ammonium Nitrate for agricultural purposes. Under Rule-35 of the rules, license authority may impose additional conditions to the license.

Import of pulses

†2486 SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of import of gram, yellow peas and arhar along with other pulses as on date;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) the countries from where the import has been made; and
- (c) whether the price of import has been higher than their minimum support price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) During April-December 2012, about 2.9 million MT of pulses were imported, out of which the share of chickpeas (gram), yellow peas and arhar was about 0.36 million MT, 1.15 million MT and 0.43 million respectively.

(b) Imports were made from countries such as Australia, Canada, Myanmar, Tanzania, Mozambique etc.

(c) Prices of pulses tend to fluctuate in the international market as production is limited and sources are few. Further they tend to vary depending on the quality of pulse. Therefore, there is no uniform import price on the basis of which a comparison can be drawn with the minimum support price.

Extension of 2 per cent subsidy period to export activities

2487. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has a proposal to extend the 2 per cent subsidy period to export activities;
- (b) if so, the details of the commodities that fall under this proposal; and
- (c) the reasons for provision of subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) In order to partially offset the high cost of credit for the exporters, 2% Interest subvention scheme was introduced. prior to June, 2012, the scheme was available to Handlooms, Handicrafts, SMEs and carpets sectors. In June 2012, it had been extended to labour intensive sectors, namely, Toys, sports goods, processed agricultural products, and readymade garments, in addition to the four sectors benefitting from the scheme earlier. Further, the scheme has been widened to include 134 sub-sectors of Engineering sector *w.e.f.* 1st January, 2013.