

Consumption of fertilizers by farmers of Andhra Pradesh

414. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that per hectare fertilizer (N, P and K) consumption in Andhra Pradesh is much more than the national average;
- (b) if so, the reasons behind increased use of fertilizers in the State; and
- (c) the efforts Government is making to see that fertilizers, in appropriate quantity, are used by farmers of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Requirement of fertilizers for a specific cropping season depends upon the requirement of nutrients based on soil health status, cropping pattern, irrigated area etc. In view of above, consumption pattern of fertilizers varies from State to State and accordingly, per hectare consumption of fertilizers of a particular State will be at variance from the national average.

(c) Government is promoting balanced fertilization based on deficient soil nutrients as established by soil testing in conjunction with other sources of plant nutrients such as organic manures and bio-fertilizers through National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) in all States including Andhra Pradesh.

To enhance soil testing capacity in the State, financial assistance has been provided to the State Government for setting up of 5 new Static Soil Testing Laboratories (STLs), 3 new Mobile STLs, 2 new Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCLs) and strengthening of 5 FQCLs during 11th Plan period.

Financial assistance to promote Organic Farming and micronutrients is also provided to the State Government.

Trainings for farmers and STL staff and Frontline Field Demonstrations are also taken up by State Government under the scheme.

Andhra Pradesh has issued 4.17 lakh Soil Health Cards during year 2011-12, 5.28 lakh during 2012-13 and 2.69 lakh during 2013-14.

Effects of New Drug Pricing Policy

415. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether New Drug Pricing Policy which has been brought in the month of May

this year has put pharmaceuticals companies in problems, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) is not allowing the loss making pharmaceutical companies to discontinue their production and exit from the market in spite of their negligible market share, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken by Government to protect such pharma companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHALCHAND): (a) The new National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy (NPPP) was promulgated on 7th December, 2012 with the objective to put in place a regulatory framework for pricing of drugs so as to ensure availability of required medicines—“essential medicines” at reasonable prices even while providing sufficient opportunity for innovation and competition to support the growth of pharma industry thereby meeting the goals of employment and shared economic well-being for all. Subsequently, the Drugs (Price Control) Order (DPCO) was notified on 15th May, 2013. The present DPCO, 2013 is based on market based pricing which is faster and easier to implement than the earlier DPCO which was cost based and complex.

(b) DPCO, 2013 *vide* its para 21 (2) provides that any manufacturer of scheduled formulation, intending to discontinue any scheduled formulation from the market shall issue a public notice and also intimate the Government in Form-IV of Schedule-II of this order in this regard at least six months prior to the intended date of discontinuation and the Government may, in public interest, direct the manufacturer of the scheduled formulation to continue with required level of production or import for a period not exceeding one year, from the intended date of such discontinuation within a period of sixty days of receipt of such intimation. Accordingly, Form-IV application received from different manufacturers are processed and permission for discontinuation of medicines is granted or refused by the NPPA under para 21 of DPCO, 2013 depending upon the availability of the drug in question.

(c) Does not arise, as permission for discontinuation is granted unless there is apprehension that it may lead to a shortage of the scheduled drug(s).

National Mobile Number Portability

416. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

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

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to do away with the roaming charges by adopting the National Mobile Number Portability (MNP); and