

difference between the delivered cost of fertilizers at farm gate and MRP payable by the farmer is given by the Government of India to the fertilizer manufacturers as subsidy.

Krishi Melas

3029. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government organised Krishi Melas for the benefit of farmers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the benefits derived by farmers from such Melas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANS RAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) The Krishi Melas are organised by the State Governments, Agriculture Universities and Rashtriya Chemical and Fertilizers (RCF) in various parts of the country for the benefit of the farmers.

(b) The details of Krishi Melas, participated by National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) and Rashtriya Chemical and Fertilizers (RCF), in various parts of the country during the years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 are as under:

Year	RCF	NFL
2011-2012	32	44
2012-2013	48	55
2013-2014	74	30

The benefits derived by the farmers from these Melas include awareness among them about the balanced use of fertilizers, new varieties of crops advantages of soil testing based nutrient application and new cost effective cultivation techniques etc.

Increase in prices of fertilizer

3030. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the increase in prices of fertilizers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, fertilizer-wise;

(c) the impact of such increase on farmers; and

(d) the steps being taken to control the prices of fertilizers with some mechanism from time to time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANS RAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (c) There has been no change in the prices of Urea since 1.11.2012. As regards Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers, there is slight decrease of 1.37% in the price of potash (MOP) during 2014. The prices of other major grades of P&K fertilizers including DAP have registered a marginal increase during 2014 with an overall average of 2.8%. The average MRPs of different grades of P&K fertilizers reported by the fertilizer companies in the web-based Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS) for the two years are listed in the Statement (*See below*).

The country is fully dependent on imports in Potassic sector and to the extent of 90% in Phosphatic sector in the form of either finished products or its raw materials. Subsidy being fixed under Nutrient Based Scheme, any fluctuation in international prices has effect on the domestic prices of P&K fertilizers.

(d) The Government has taken following steps to control the prices of P&K fertilizers:

- (i.) Under the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), the fertilizers companies are required to print the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) on each bag of fertilizer. No fertilizer company or dealer is supposed to sell or offer for sale any fertilizers at a price exceeding printed MRP. Violation of this is punishable under Essential Commodities Act. The State Governments are adequately empowered to take preventive/punitive actions for violation of any of the provisions of Fertilizer Control Order (FCO) 1985 under Essential Commodities Act 1955. Overcharging is violation of EC Act.
- (ii.) It has been made mandatory for the fertilizer companies to submit alongwith their subsidy claims, the cost data of their fertilizer products from 2012-13 onwards in prescribed format on six monthly basis. The Department has also appointed Cost Accountants/ Firms to scrutinise the said cost data.
- (iii.) It has also been stipulated in the provisions, that in cases, where after scrutiny, unreasonableness of MRP is established or where there is no correlation between the cost of production or acquisition and the MRP printed on the bags, the subsidy would be restricted or denied even if the product is otherwise eligible for subsidy under NBS Scheme. In proven case of abuse of subsidy mechanism, the Department of Fertilizers, on the recommendation of Inter Ministerial Committee may exclude any grade/grades of fertilizers of a particular company or the fertilizer company itself from the NBS Scheme.

Statement*Average MRPs of major P&K fertilizers reported in the FMS*

Sl. No.	Fertilizer grade	Average price during 2013	Average price during 2014 (Upto Oct)	% increase/decrease
1.	DAP: 18-46-0-0	22088	23232	5.18
2.	MOP: 0-0-60-0	16877	16646	-1.37
3.	16-20-0-13	17257	17622	2.12
4.	20-20-0-13	17880	17762	-0.66
5.	10-26-26-0	21310	21449	0.65
6.	12-32-16	21509	21750	1.12
7.	14-35-14	22494	22771	1.23
8.	15-15-15	15212	16550	8.80
9.	AS: 20.6-0-0-23	14417	15763	9.34
10.	20-20-0-0	14727	15268	3.67
11.	17-17-17	20356	21502	5.63
12.	19-19-19	20915	20915	0.00
13.	SSP	7491	7606	1.54
Overall increase				2.86

Increasing profile of products sold at Jan Aushadhi Stores

3031. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Jan Aushadhi Stores (JASs) are now selling only drugs to people;
- (b) whether there are any plans to increase the profile of products at JASs such as surgical items, etc.; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANS RAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) Yes, Sir. In the New