

It can be seen from the above table that sale of Urea remains more or less same whereas sale of Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers has increased this year in comparison to previous year 2013-14 for the same period.

(d) to (f) There is no proposal for revision of price of Urea. The MRP of Urea is statutorily fixed by the Government of India and at present it is ₹ 5360/- Per Metric Tonne (PMT) (exclusive of the Central Excise Duty for domestically produced Urea and countervailing duty for the imported Urea which is 1% at present) and State VAT which differs from State to State. The Quarter-wise Maximum Retail Prices (MRPs) of P&K fertilizers is given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to USQ No.1808(Part a)]. There is no proposal to cut subsidy on chemical fertilizers.

Regarding imbalanced use of soil nutrients, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing the following schemes/ projects to promote soil test based balanced use of fertilizers:-

- (i) Soil Health Management (SHM) programme under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) in which State Governments are assisted in following components:
 - (a) setting up of static/mobile soil testing laboratories (STLs).
 - (b) strengthening of static/ mobile STLs.
 - (c) trainings and demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers.
- (ii) In current year, Soil Health Card Scheme is introduced to assist State Governments to issue soil health cards to all farmers in the country. Soil health card will provide information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility. Soil status will be assessed regularly in a cycle of 3 years so that nutrient deficiencies are identified and amendments applied.

Revival of FCIL and HFCL

1815. DR. CHANDAN MITRA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has planned to revive certain fertilizer units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL), if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof; and

(b) the fresh measures taken by Government to achieve the target of self-sufficiency in urea production in the country? .

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR) : (a) Yes, Sir. In August, 2011 the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the Draft Rehabilitation Scheme (DRS) for revival of all the closed units of Fertilizers Corporation of India limited (FCIL) *i.e.*, Talcher, Ramagundam, Sindri, Gorakhpur and Korba and Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation limited (HFCL) *i.e.* Barauni, Haldia and Durgapur. DRS envisaged revival of Talcher unit by a consortium of M/s. Rashtriya Chemical & Fertilizers limited (RCF), M/s Coal India limited (CIL) and M/s Gas Authority of India limited (GAIL), revival of Ramagundam unit by M/s. Engineers India limited (EIL) and M/s. National Fertilizers limited (NFL) and revival of Sindri unit by M/s Steel Authority of India limited (SAIL) and NFL. Revival of Gorakhpur and Korba Units of FCIL and all three units of HFCL was to be done through 'bidding route'.

In its meeting held on 9.5.2013, CCEA, *inter-alia*, approved waiver of Government of India loan and interest to facilitate FCIL to arrive at a positive net worth and action plan of revival of HFCL units to be taken up once revival of FCIL units is on track. Waiver of Government of India loan and interest enabled FCIL to get de-registered from the purview of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The progress of revival of FCIL units is as under:

- (i) **Talcher Unit** : The pre-project activities for revival of Talcher unit (Odisha) by the nominated Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), namely, RCF, CIL, GAIL and FCIL are in progress to set-up a coal-based fertilizer plant. The selection of Coal Gasification Technology by GAIL is at the final stage.
- (ii) **Ramagundam Unit** : The pre-project activities for revival of Ramagundam unit (Telangana) by the nominated PSUs, namely, EIL, NFL and FCIL are in progress to set-up a gas-based fertilizer plant. Joint Venture (JV) agreement has been signed by these PSUs on 14.01.2015
- (iii) **Sindri Unit** : Approved DRS envisaged revival of Sindri unit by SAIL. However, not much progress was made due to non-availability of around 3000 Acres of

contiguous piece of land for the Steel Plant due to encroachments. In the meantime, the scenario for SAIL has undergone change, a massive modernization and expansion plan of SAIL is currently under implementation, with capital expenditure (CAPEX) commitment of ₹72,000 crore. SAIL's borrowings have increased to around ₹ 25,300 crore. SAIL has drawn a 'vision plan 2025' to expand to 50 MTPA Hot Metal capacity by 2025. This requires a commitment around ₹ 2.02 lakh crore. In view of the above, SAIL has taken a view not to pursue the Sindri Revival project further. Government is exploring the feasibility of revival of Sindri unit, through the 'bidding route'.

- (iv) **Gorakhpur unit** : M/s. GAIL is planning to lay a gas pipeline from Jagdishpur (Uttar Pradesh) to Haldia (West Bengal). To make this gas pipeline financially viable, Government is exploring the feasibility of revival of Gorakhpur unit, which is en-route of Jagdishpur- Haldia pipeline (JHPL) on 'nomination route' instead of 'bidding route' approved earlier.
- (v) **Korba unit** : The revival of Korba unit would be taken up later on.
- (vi) **Barauni unit** : Though proposal/action plan on revival of units of HFCL to be taken up once revival of FCIL units is on track in terms of CCEA approval in May 2013, but, in the context of the recent announcement of the proposed JHPL, Government is exploring the feasibility of fast tracking the revival of Barauni unit of HFCL through 'bidding route'.

(b) The Government has notified the New Investment Policy (NIP)-2012 and amendment to NIP-2012 on 2nd January, 2013 and 7th October, 2014 respectively to facilitate fresh investment in urea sector to boost the indigenous production of urea and to reduce import dependency.

Marketing margin levied by private sector natural gas marketers

1816. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the updated status of action taken by the Ministry to resolve the long standing issue of marketing margin levied by private sector natural gas marketers to consider the same in urea production cost;