

expenditure on concession on sale of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers was Rs. 13244.07 crore. Thus the percentage of increase in the amount of subsidy on fertilizers during 1999-2000 was nearly 202% of the subsidy expenditure incurred in 1990-91.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Urea is the only fertilizer which is at present under statutory price, distribution and movement control. In 1990-91, the statutorily notified sale price of urea was Rs. 3600/- per tonne, while in 1999-2000 the sale price of urea is Rs. 4600/- per tonne.

#### **Increase in prices of fertilizers**

† 1293. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that small farmers are facing great difficulties due to the increase in fertilizer's prices;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take any effective measures to provide fertilizers to small farmers, on concessional rates; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government periodically fixes a uniform farm gate price for urea, which is the only fertilizer under price, movement and distribution control keeping in mind its fiscal constraints and the need to provide urea to all farmers including small and marginal farmers at affordable price. Uniform pricing all over the country irrespective of the size of the farm hold is well-considered policy.

#### **Scientific tests hampered by skinning of tigress**

1294. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "Research Project hampered by killing", appearing in the Pioneer dated 18th October, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the recent incident of skinning a tigress in the Nehru

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.