

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) Import of urea for direct agriculture use is made on Government account through State Trading Enterprises (STEs) namely MMTC Limited (MMTC), State Trading Corporation Limited (STC) and Indian Potash Limited (IPL). The quantum of import is decided based on the demand projection given by the States in each cropping season *vis-à-vis* assessed production of urea in the country. The import of urea during the last three years and the current year (upto Nov, 2015) is as below:-

(Qty. in LMT)				
Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 (upto Oct., 15)
Urea	80.44	70.88	87.49	51.90

(b) and (c) Government is always encouraging production of fertilizers in the country to achieve self-sufficiency. The Government has notified the New Investment Policy (NIP) 2008 and 2012 on 4th September, 2008 and 2nd January, 2013 respectively and Modified New Pricing Scheme (NPS)-III on 2nd April, 2014 to facilitate extra domestic production of urea and for fresh investment in urea sector to reduce India's import dependency. The NIP 2012 was further amended on 7th October, 2014.

The Government has also notified the New Urea Policy (NUP)-2015 for existing gas based urea manufacturing units on 25th May, 2015 with the twin objectives of maximizing indigenous urea production and promoting energy efficiency in urea production while rationalizing subsidy burden on the Government. It is expected to prepare the domestic urea sector to become globally competitive in terms of energy efficiency over a period of three years.

#### **Impact of weak monsoon over crop producing areas**

678. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is decreased agricultural production due to weak monsoon over crop producing areas of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to increase agricultural production by other sources of irrigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE ( SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA ):

(a) On account of delayed/deficient monsoon rainfall in many parts of the country during the last two consecutive years, the production of most of the crops has declined. Details of production of major agricultural crops during Kharif 2014-15 and 2015-16 *vis-à-vis* Kharif 2013-14 are given below:

Crops	Kharif Production (Million Tonnes)		
	2013-14	2014-15#	2015-16*
Rice	91.50	90.86	90.61
Coarse Cereals	31.20	29.82	27.88
Pulses	5.99	5.63	5.56
Foodgrains	128.69	126.31	124.05
Oilseeds	22.61	18.33	19.89
Sugarcane	352.14	359.33	341.43
Cotton@	35.90	35.48	33.51

\*: As per 1st Advance Estimates.

#: As per 4th Advance Estimates.

@: Million Bales of 170 kg each.

(b) To enhance water use efficiency in the agriculture sector by promoting appropriate technological interventions like drip and sprinkler irrigation technologies and encourage the farmers to use water saving and conservation technologies, the Government of India has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation since January 2006.

In June, 2010, the scheme was up-scaled to National Mission on Micro Irrigation (NMMI), which continued till 2013-14. During 2014-15, the NMMI was subsumed under National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) and implemented as "On Farm Water Management" (OFMW).

From 1st April, 2015, Micro Irrigation component of OFMW has been subsumed under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna with Budget Estimate of Rs. 1000.00 crore for 2015-16.

#### **4G services by BSNL and MTNL**

679. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL and MTNL plan to introduce 4G services in the country;