

**Statement**

*Average amount of outstanding loan\* (₹ '00) per agricultural household and proportion of indebted agricultural household by size class of land possessed*

Size class of land possessed	Approximate average amount of outstanding loan (In ₹ '00)	Number of households having outstanding loan (00)	Estimated number of agricultural households (00)
< 0.01	311	10015	23890
0.01 – 0.40	239	135972	287663
0.41 – 1.00	354	152163	314811
1.01 – 2.00	548	86108	154577
2.01 – 4.00	949	56098	84345
4.01 – 10.00	1827	25207	33019
10.00 +	2903	2918	3706
ALL SIZES	470	468481	902011

\* Loan taken from all the sources irrespective of the purpose as outstaying as on date of survey

*Note:* Land class-wise detailed figures in col.3 not yet published.

**Import and testing of fertilizers**

1484. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the policy of Government for import of fertilizers;
- (b) the quantum and value of fertilizers imported along with the names of importing companies and the countries from which these fertilizers were imported during each of the last three years and current year, fertilizer-wise;
- (c) whether appropriate testing facilities are available for testing these fertilizers as per international standard, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the monitoring mechanism put in place to check quality of fertilizers being imported by the said companies; and

(e) the measures taken by Government to make the country self-sufficient in production of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (b) Urea is the only fertilizer under statutory price control and its import is restricted and permitted through State Trading Enterprises (STEs) namely MMTC Limited (MMTC), State Trading Corporation Limited (STC) and Indian Potash Limited (IPL), under the Foreign Trade Policy of the Government. Urea for direct agricultural use is imported on Government account to bridge the gap between assessed demand and indigenous production. Government is also importing approximately 20 Lakh Metric Tonnes urea from Oman India Fertilizer Company (OMIFCO) under a Long Term Urea Off Take Agreement (UOTA) between GOI & OMIFCO. The import of urea from OMIFCO is made through M/s IFFCO and M/s KRIBHCO. The year-wise quantity and value of urea imported during the last three years and current year (up to November, 2015) are as under:

Year	From OMIFCO (LMT)	Through STE (LMT)	Total Urea Imported (LMT)	Value (Million US\$)
2012-13	18.33	62.11	80.44	3,009.49
2013-14	21.21	49.68	70.89	1,968.36
2014-15	14.63	72.86	87.49	2,477.27
2015-16*	14.27	43.48	57.75	1,468.24

\* upto November, 2015

Import of fertilizers (other than Urea) is free, commonly known as Open General Licence (OGL). Various companies import these fertilizers as per their commercial judgment. Government does not maintain the value of these imports. The year-wise details of quantity of P&K fertilizers imported during the last three years and current year (up to June, 2015) are as under:

(Figures in Lakh MT)			
Year	DAP	NPK	MOP#
2012-13	57.02	4.05	24.95
2013-14	32.61	3.62	31.80
2014-15	38.53	2.91	41.97
2015-16*	52.88	6.29	25.72

\* upto November, 2015

# MOP includes both for use as direct application as well as NPK manufacture.

The names of companies who have imported P&K fertilizers during the last 3 years and the current year are Agrigold Organics Pvt. Ltd. (AOPL), Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. (CFCL), Coromandel International Ltd. (CIL), Deepak Fertilizers & Petrochemicals Ltd. (DFPL), Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT), Greenstar Fertilizer Ltd. (GFL), Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. (GSFC), HINDALCO/Indo Gulf Fertilizers Ltd. (IGFL), HPM Chemicals and Fertilizers, Indian Farmers Fertilisers Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO), Indian Potash Ltd. (IPL), KPR Fertilizers Ltd. Krishak Bharati Cooperative (KRIBHCO), Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. (MCFL), Madras Fertilizer Ltd. (MFL), Mosaic India Pvt. Ltd. Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd (NFCL), Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL), Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF), Shriram Ferts and Chemicals, Sunfert International Pvt. Ltd. Tata Chemicals Ltd. (TCL), Zuari Agro Chemicals Ltd. (ZACL).

The countries from where the fertilizers have been imported during the last three years and current year are Australia, Belarus, China, Canada, CIS, Estonia, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Morocco, Oman, Russia, S. Arabia, Spain, Ukraine, USA and Vietnam.

(c) Yes, Sir. The method for analysis of various parameters of all the fertilizers have been prescribed in Schedule II of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985, which are as per international prevailing standards. At present, there are 4 notified Central Government Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCLs), namely, Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute (CFQC&TI) and its three Regional Fertilizer Control Laboratories (RFCLs), which have been entrusted with the responsibility to check the quality of imported fertilizers. These laboratories carry out the analysis as per the methods notified in the FCO.

(d) In order to check the quality of imported fertilizers, the fertilizer inspectors of CFQC&TI and RFCLs draw samples at the ports and send the samples to the laboratories. Thereafter, the samples are analyzed by the qualified analyst of the laboratories.

(e) 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.

The Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme has been announced for P&K fertilizers w.e.f. 01.04.2010 to ensure sufficient availability. Government is also encouraging private sector and public sector companies to explore the possibilities for joint ventures abroad to ensure uninterrupted supply of fertilizer inputs to P&K sector.

#### **Pricing of drugs/medicines**

1485. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has a clear policy regarding pricing of medicines;
- (b) whether it is weighed in favour of pharmaceutical companies or in favour of patients from ordinary/poor families; and
- (c) whether Government has ensured that life saving drugs are made available at reasonable cost to them by producing them in public sector companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (b) The Department of Pharmaceuticals has notified the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy-2012 under which the prices of medicines included in the National List of Essential Medicines-2011 are to be controlled and regulated. The objective is 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 the industry, thereby meeting the goals of employment and shared economic well being for all.

(c) Life saving drugs is not mentioned in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order-2013. It only finds mentioned in the custom and excise tariff. Some full/partial exemptions/concessions from payment of duties on specified drugs and medicines are presently in force. However, essential medicines as mentioned in the reply to Parts (a) and (b) above, are made available at reasonable prices in accordance with the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy-2012 and the Drugs (Price Control) Order- 2013.