

[9 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) The quantity of major fertilizers imported during the last two years is as below:—

Quantity imported (lakh MT)		
Year	DAP	MOP
2002-03	3.83	26.3
2003-04	7.34	25.8

As DAP and MOP are decontrolled fertilizers, and their imports are made on private account by importers, details pertaining to amount of foreign exchange spent by various importers in the import of these fertilizers are not available with Government.

(d) The Government has been pursuing policies which are conducive for encouraging investment in fertilizer sector so as to achieve self-sufficiency in meeting the indigenous requirement of major fertilizers. In case of urea, the Government has recently announced the pricing policy for investment to be made in (a) new and expansion projects of urea; and (b) existing non-gas based urea units converting to natural gas/LNG for feedstock/fuel. In order to augment indigenous availability of urea, IFFCO and KRIBHCO the multi-state cooperative societies, are setting up a joint venture in Sur, Oman with Oman Oil Company and the entire production of 16.52 lakh MT of urea will be bought by the Government. On the other hand, installed capacity (54.20 lakh MT in nutrient terms) of phosphatic fertilizers is sufficient enough to meet the current level of requirement (average consumption of 46-47 lakh MT of last three years). As regards MOP, the country is dependent on total imports in the absence of any exploitable reserves of potash in the country.

(e) Selling prices of fertilizers have not been increased since 28.2.2002. However, there has been increase in subsidy/concession outgo on fertilizers due to increase in the cost of raw materials/inputs used in the manufacture of fertilizers.

Revitalisation of sugar industry

100. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether representatives of the sugar industry met him and demanded a package for the revitalisation of the sector;
- (b) if so, the main points suggested by them;
- (c) whether Government have considered their suggestions and if so, how many of their proposals have been considered; and
- (d) by what time a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The representatives of sugar industry met the Minister and made suggestions regarding, *inter alia*, expediting subsidy claims, softening of terms of financial assistance under Sugar Development Fund, taking up matters with other relevant Ministries etc. Government have taken appropriate decision on their suggestions.

Ration card for farmers and agriculture workers

101. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of alarming number of suicides by farmers in Andhra Pradesh and various parts of country due to poverty after the year 2002;
- (b) whether many farmers and agriculture workers are excluded from Public Distribution System (PDS) and denied ration cards with introduction of targeted PDS;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the number of ration card holders for the last three years, State-wise, year-wise and category-wise;
- (d) the measures taken if any, for long term food security of the farmers; and
- (e) whether Universal Public Distribution System will be introduced for enabling the deprived to access food?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The instructions of Government of India do not bar issue of ration cards under the Targeted Public Distribution System to *bona fide* Indian citizens.