

(d) Following the withdrawal of exemptions/concessions, imported drugs/bulk drugs (including those cleared from SEZ to domestic tariff area) would attract applicable customs duties.

(e) The above action of the Government to withdraw exemption also contributes to the 'Make in India' strategy.

Measures to supply superior quality fertilizers

364. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether superior quality of fertilizer is absolutely essential to maintain the fertility of soil for sustained growth of agricultural production;

(b) whether Government has received various complaints from farmers regarding improper mixing in DAP fertilizer;

(c) if so, the steps taken to ensure that good quality fertilizers are provided to farmers; and

(d) the measures taken to make testing of fertilizers mandatory at every possible level right from the factory level till it reaches the farmers?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) To ensure availability of quality fertilizer to the farmers, the fertilizer has been declared as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, (ECA), 1955 and the Fertilizer (Control) Order (FCO), 1985 has also been promulgated to regulate quality, price, trade and distribution of fertilizer to the farmers. Specifications of all the fertilizers are prescribed in the said order. No person shall manufacture/import for sale, sell, offer for sale, stock or exhibit for sale or distribute any fertilizer which is not notified in the FCO or not of standard prescribed in the FCO. Sample of fertilizers are drawn periodically by the Fertilizer Inspectors of the State Government from dealers/wholesalers and manufactures to check their quality as per the parameter prescribed in FCO, 1985. In case of imported fertilizer, the Fertilizer Inspectors of the Central Government draw samples from ship/container at port and analyze in their laboratories at Faridabad, Kalyani, Chennai and Mumbai. Presently, there are 78 notified Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories in the country including 4 laboratories under Central Government for analysis of fertilizer samples.