

- (d) the expected timeline for completion of setting up of NIPER at Visakhapatnam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) Sir, there is no proposal of setting up a National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) at Visakhapatnam.

- (b) to (d) Does not arise.

Complaints regarding overcharging for urea

369. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any complaint/report regarding charging of higher price by dealers from farmers for newly introduced 45 kg. bag of urea;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken steps to ensure that urea is sold at the rate of ₹269 for a 45 kg. bag;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Sir, there is no complaint/report regarding charging higher price by dealers from farmers for newly introduced 45 kg. bag of urea.

- (b) In view of (a), question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Following steps are being taken to check black-marketing/ smuggling of fertilizers meant for farmers:

- a. The movement of all major subsidized fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system (www.urvarak.co.in) also called as Integrated Fertilizer Monitoring System (iFMS);
- b. The State Governments have been advised to sensitize the State Institutional Agencies to coordinate with manufacturers and importers of fertilizers for streamlining the supplies;

- c. Department of Fertilizers and Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) are jointly reviewing fertilizer availability with State Agriculture department through video conferences every week. The corrective actions, if required, are taken immediately to avoid any hardships to farmers;
 - d. Fertilizer companies are required to print Maximum Retail Price (MRP) on the fertilizer bags clearly. Any sale above the printed MRP is punishable under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955;
 - e. State Governments as enforcement agencies are adequately empowered to check the irregularities.
- (e) In view of above, question does not arise.

Exploration of fresh coal reserves

370. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has slowed down the exploration of fresh coal reserves in the country after 2014 using latest techniques in the field of coal mining;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reasons Government is not taking initiative to avail technical know-how from the specialised agencies of other countries having proven record?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The Government has not slowed down the exploration for estimation of fresh coal resources in the country. Fresh coal resources are identified through Promotional/Regional exploration/drilling. Every year about 1 to 3 billion tonne of fresh resources are added through Promotional/Regional exploration to the Coal Inventory of the country.

Achievement of Promotional/ Regional exploration drilling was 1.76 lakh m (2017-18) in comparison to 1.51 lakh m in 2013-14.

- (c) Initiatives have been taken to avail new techniques like 2D/3D seismic survey, Air borne survey etc. from specialized agencies through Global tendering.