

Shortage of urea in Bihar

†44. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a situation of shortage of urea has arisen in Bihar;

(b) the reasons for not making beforehand preparations when Government had the idea that urea is required immediately after irrigation of Rabi crops;

(c) the immediate efforts made by Government to meet the requirements of urea; and

(d) the strategy being adopted by Government to prevent such situation again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. As against sales of 1.88 LMT, 2.86 LMT and 2.39 LMT in Bihar during November 2017, December 2017 and January 2018 availability of Urea in the State of Bihar has been 2.44 LMT, 3.04 LMT and 2.75 LMT respectively.

(b) to (d) Department of Fertilizers ensures availability of all fertilizers at State level as per requirement projected by Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) in consultation with States/UTs for each season and distribution within the States is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. Before the commencement of each cropping season, DAC&FW, in consultation with all the State Governments, assesses the requirement of fertilizers. After assessment of requirement, DAC&FW projects month-wise requirement of fertilizers.

On the basis of month-wise and State-wise projection given by DAC&FW, Department of Fertilizers allocates sufficient/adequate quantities of fertilizers to States by issuing monthly supply plan and continuously monitors the availability through following system:

- (i) The movement of all major subsidized fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system called integrated Fertilizer Monitoring System (iFMS);
- (ii) The State Governments are regularly advised to coordinate with manufacturers and importers of fertilizers for streamlining the supplies through timely placement of indents for railway rakes through their state institutional agencies like Markfed etc.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(iii) Regular Weekly Video Conference is conducted jointly by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Department of Fertilizers (DoF), and Ministry of Railways with State Agriculture Officials and corrective actions are taken to dispatch fertilizer as indicated by the State Governments.

(iv) The gap between demand (requirement) and production is met through imports. The import for the season is also finalised well in advance to ensure timely availability.

Thus, with these steps the availability of urea has been comfortable in the country including Bihar.

Supply of fertilizers to farmers at affordable rates

45. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether chemical fertilizers under the subsidy regime are made available to farmers at the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) fixed by Government;

(b) whether fertilizers are not being provided by the agents at the price fixed for farmers, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether lower global prices of nutrients as well as inputs/ intermediates such as ammonia, phosphoric acid and sulphur has not translated into cheaper fertilizers for Indian farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, including for DAP, MOP and urea and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Urea is provided to the farmers at a statutorily notified Maximum Retail Price (MRP) which is at present ₹ 5360/- per MT (exclusive of Central/State Taxes and other charges towards neem coating).

However, MRP of P&K fertilizers are not fixed by the Government under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme.

(b) The Government of India has declared Fertilizer as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (ECA) and notified Fertilizer (Control) Order (FCO), 1985 and Fertilizer (Movement Control) Order, 1973 under the EC Act. State Governments have been adequately empowered to ensure selling of