

- (i) It has been made mandatory for the fertilizer companies to submit along with their subsidy claims, the cost data of their fertilizer products from 2012-13 onwards in prescribed format on annual basis to find out reasonableness of MRP fixed by them. The Department has also appointed Cost Accountants/Firms to scrutinise the said cost data to ensure that the prices fixed by the fertilizer companies are reasonable.
- (ii) It has also been stipulated in the provisions that in cases, where after scrutiny, unreasonableness of MRP is established or where there is no correlation between the cost of production or acquisition and the MRP printed on the bags, the subsidy would be restricted or denied even if the product is otherwise eligible for subsidy under NBS Scheme. In proven case of abuse of subsidy mechanism, the Department of Fertilizers, on the recommendation of Inter-Ministerial Committee may exclude any grade/grades of fertilizers of a particular company or the fertilizer company itself from the NBS Scheme.
- (d) and (e) The data regarding State-wise differences in prices of fertilizers are not maintained by the Government.
- (f) MRP of Urea and Nutrient Based Subsidy rates are fixed by the Government for whole country irrespective of the States.

Cases of overcharging for medicines being pursued by NPPA

832. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases of overcharging for medicines and medical equipments being pursued by the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) since 2014, year-wise;
- (b) the total amount recovered as a proportion of the total amount for which demand notices have been sent to pharmaceutical companies;
- (c) whether Government is taking steps for early resolution of such cases which get stuck in litigation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Details of demand notices issued and amount recovered during last 3 (three) years are as below:—

Year	Number of cases	Demanded Amount (in crores)	Amount Recovered (in crores)
2014-15	129	581.08	90.17
2015-16	264	931.18	12.32
2016-17	138	334.00	302.06
2017-18 (upto 31.12.2017)	189	675.41	140.26

The list of overcharging cases, indicating those under litigation, is uploaded on NPPA's website www.nppa.nic.in.

(c) to (e) The cases pending in various courts are followed up persistently through Department of Legal Affairs and their nominated law officers, senior advocates, and Government advocates.

Study to assess impact of Neem Coated Urea

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has started producing Neem Coated Urea (NCU) in full-fledged manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government undertook any study to assess its impact on the crops after full-fledged use;

(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) and (b) Based on CCEA decision, *vide* notification dated 25th May, 2015 Department of Fertilizers has made it mandatory for all the domestic producers of urea to produce 100% as Neem Coated Urea with an extra MRP of 5% to be charged by the fertilizer manufacturing entities from farmers. Entire quantity of indigenously produced urea and imported urea is being neem coated w.e.f 1st September, 2015 and w.e.f 1st December, 2015 respectively.

(c) to (e) Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) was entrusted to conduct a study to determine the impact of Neem Coated Urea. The interim report prepared by Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre