

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

(ADRTC), Bengaluru has been submitted by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DACFW). The brief findings of the study are as follows:

- (i) Improvement in soil health.
- (ii) Reduction in costs with respect to plant protection chemicals.
- (iii) Reduction in pest and disease attack.
- (iv) An increase in yield of paddy, sugarcane, maize, soybean and tur/red gram to an extent of 5.79%, 17.5%, 7.14%, 7.4% and 16.88% respectively.
- (v) Diversion of highly subsidized urea towards non-agricultural purposes negligible among farmers after the introduction of the mandatory policy of production and distribution of only Neem coated urea.

Prices of industrial chemicals

834. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether prices of various industrial chemicals have increased during the last one year;
- (b) if so, details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether decrease in production of industrial chemicals in China is a reason for such rise;
- (d) if so, details thereof;
- (e) whether industrial chemical manufacturers in our country have made windfall profits from such rise in the last one year; and
- (f) the steps taken by Government to protect the interests of industries using such chemicals against such rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the price index of Chemical and Chemical Products, there is minor increase (111.6 in April, 2017 to 112.8 in December, 2017) in price index of products in the sub-group 'Chemical and Chemical Products' during the last one year in the country. The industrial chemical sector is delicensed and decontrolled. The entrepreneurs are setting up units based on techno-economic feasibility, demand and supply scenario and cost of feedstock/raw materials and selling in the free market. Government has taken various steps including rationalization of custom duty on the feedstock/building blocks for having synergy in the complete value chain for boosting the chemical sector and competitiveness of the industry in the country.