

(d) whether Government proposes to make any changes in the policy governing PCPIRs, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has approved setting up of 4 Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIRs) in the States of Gujarat (Dahej), Andhra Pradesh (Visakhapatnam-Kakinada), Odisha (Paradeep) and Tamil Nadu (Cuddalore-Nagapattinam).

(c) Yes, Sir. These PCPIRs have so far attracted investments worth approximately ₹ 1.90 lakh crore and around 3.30 lakh persons have been employed in direct and indirect activities, as per monitoring mechanism in place at the State and Central Government levels. The PCPIRs also cover various Special Economic Zones (SEZs) which are contributing to the export basket of the country. Creation of infrastructure like roads, railways, airports, ports, water supply, power and effluent treatment etc. is a continuous process in the PCPIRs with a long gestation period.

(d) Review of policy is a dynamic process and undertaken from time to time on need basis and stakeholder consultations. Accordingly, this Department initiated an exercise to recommend broad policy for the petrochemical sector which includes recommendations regarding amendments to the existing PCPIR policy.

Certification of fertilizers

2610. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present system of certifying new fertilizers is time consuming;

(b) if so, whether Government plans to establish a Fertilizer Development and Regulating Authority to ensure efficient certification; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the details of Government's plan to streamline the process of certification, quality checks, innovations, and fixing prices of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The details of Government's plan to streamline the process of certification, quality checks, innovations, and fixing prices of fertilizer process are as under:—

Government of India has simplified the procedure for inclusion of new fertilizer in Fertilizer Control Order (FCO). The fertilizers are notified/specified on the recommendation of Central Fertilizer Committee (CFC) constituted under Clause 38 of FCO, 1985. In the first phase CFC, while recommending the incorporation of any fertilizer in FCO, takes into account the agronomic trial results, economic feasibility etc. of the product. The criteria/requirement prescribed for agronomic trials are as under:—

- (i) Multi-locational trials data are required to be generated for one cropping season on different crops in different agro-climatic regions to evaluate a particular new product in terms of its agronomic efficiency, cost benefit ratio and other criteria if is included in FCO, 1985. The trials may be extended for another cropping season if the results are inconclusive in one cropping season.
- (ii) The requirement of trials would be dispensed with if the product is one of the variant of a product already included in the Schedule-I.

Thereafter, with the approval of the Competent Authority, vetting of draft Notification by Ministry of Law is done in the second phase. The Standing Committee of Agriculture has recommended for constitution of Fertilizer Development and Regulatory Authority, in order to streamline the process of certification of fertilizers, continuous quality check, imposing penalty for sub-standard and spurious quality of fertilizers, promoting innovation in fertilizer sector and fixation of pricing etc. A committee has been constituted to examine the existing mechanism of quality control of fertilizers in view of the recommendation made by the Standing Committee and make necessary recommendation. The committee will submit its report shortly.

Urea is being provided to the farmers at a statutorily notified Maximum Retail Price (MRP). The MRP of 45 kg. bag of urea is ₹ 242 per bag (exclusive of charges towards neem coating and taxes as applicable) and the MRP of 50 kg. bag of urea is ₹ 268 per (exclusive of charges towards neem coating and taxes as applicable). The Government of Uttar Pradesh levied additional VAT on natural gas due to which an amount of ₹ 34 for 50 kg. bag and ₹ 31 for 45 kg. bag of urea is collected over and above the MRP of urea from the farmers in the State of Uttar Pradesh. However, Uttar Pradesh Government has withdrawn the additional VAT from natural gas *w.e.f.* 14.11.2018.

P&K fertilizers have been decontrolled and fertilizer companies are free to fix MRP on these fertilizers at a reasonable level as per market dynamics. Government only provides a fixed amount of subsidy on P&K fertilizers based on their nutrient contents.