

under UOTA between Government of India and OMIFCO, Oman and distributing the OMIFCO urea to the States as per supply plan of Government of India.

Import of fertilizers (other than Urea) is free and on private account under OGL, commonly known as Open General Licence (OGL). Various companies import these fertilizers as per their commercial judgement.

(c) and (d) The month-wise demand is assessed and projected by the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) in consultation with the State Governments before commencement of each cropping season. 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 agreed supply plan as per the Fertilizer (Movement Control) Order, 1973. The gap between demand (requirement) and production is met through import.

Import of Urea is done either through designated STEs on Government account as per the MoU signed between Department of fertilizers and STEs or under the long term agreement of OMIFCO. The import of other fertilizers is under OGL. The ports are decided based upon the various options given by the STE and the requirement of different regions. The State Governments are regularly advised to coordinate with manufacturers and importers of fertilizers for streamlining the supplies through timely placement of indents.

### **Impact of closing of pharma companies in China**

688. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to notice of the Ministry that the environmental disruptions resulting in closing of tens of thousands of pharma companies in China is impacting Indian Pharma Sector;

(b) whether any assessment has been made about shortage of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and closing down of nearly 200 API units in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and how the Ministry is planning to address this serious problem; and

(d) whether there are alternative countries for importing APIs and if not, how would the Ministry ensure that drugs manufactured with help of APIs are kept at a reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) The Government is not aware of any such report.

(c) In view of reply to (a) and (b) above, question does not arise.

(d) Apart from China, APIs are also imported from USA, Italy, Singapore, Hong kong, Spain, Germany, France, Japan, Denmark, Netherlands, Indonesia, Korea, etc. from which Bulk drugs/APIs can be imported during contingencies. The policies formulated by Government from time to time are designed to minimize country's dependence on imports and to give fillip to indigenous manufacturing. In this direction, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has formulated a Scheme namely 'Assistance to Bulk Drug Industry for Common Facility Centre' for providing assistance to Bulk Drug Industry for Common Facility Centre in any upcoming bulk drug park promoted by State Governments/State Corporations. An Inter-Ministerial Task Force was also constituted under the Chairmanship of the Minister of State (Chemicals and Fertilizers) on 18.04.2018 to formulate a roadmap for the enhanced production of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) in the country.

**Status of Namrup based Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited**

689. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a Government team has recently visited Assam to take stock of the Namrup based Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL) which has been lying closed for years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether ₹ 100 crore has been sanctioned for Namrup fertilizer plant's unit I and II;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the closure of the production units at Namrup has led to skyrocketing of prices of urea in the black market; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No Government team has visited Assam to take stock