

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 195 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2025

**Reducing Dependence on Imported Fertilizers and Enhancing Domestic
Production**

195: SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of India's continued dependence on imported fertilizers, and the steps taken to reduce this dependency;
- (b) whether there are any new initiatives or policies planned to enhance domestic fertilizer production, including investments in public, cooperative, and private sectors;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, including timelines for implementation; and
- (d) the measures being considered to promote the use of innovative solutions such as nano urea and natural farming to optimize fertilizer use in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (c): The indigenous production of fertilizers is not commensurate with the requirement in the country and the gap is fulfilled through imports. The details of production, consumption and imports of fertilizers during last three years are given below:-

UREA			
Year	Production	Consumption	Import
2021-22	250.72	341.73	91.36
2022-23	284.94	357.26	75.80
2023-24	314.07	357.81	70.42

P&K			
Year	Production	Consumption	Import
2021-22	185.23	294.70	90.92
2022-23	200.35	279.12	112.01
2023-24	189.26	288.42	106.53

With regard to Urea, the Government had announced New Investment Policy (NIP) – 2012 on 2nd January, 2013 and its amendment on 7th October, 2014 to facilitate fresh investment in the urea sector and to make India self-sufficient in the urea sector. Total 6 new urea units have been set up under NIP-2012 which includes 4 urea units set up through Joint Venture Companies (JVC) of nominated PSUs and 2 urea units set up by the private companies. The units set up through JVC are Ramagundam urea unit of Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd (RFCL) in Telangana and 3 urea units namely Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni of Hindustan Urvarak&Rasayan Limited (HURL) in Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar, respectively. The units set up by private companies are Panagarh urea unit of Matix Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. (Matix) in West Bengal; and Gadepan-III urea unit of Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. (CFCL) in Rajasthan. Each of these units has installed capacity of 12.7 Lakh Metric Tonne per annum (LMTPA). These units are highly energy efficient as they are based on latest technology. Therefore, these units have together added urea production capacity of 76.2 LMTPA, thereby total indigenous urea production capacity (Reassessed Capacity, RAC) has increased from 207.54 LMTPA during 2014-15 to 283.74 LMTPA during 2023-24. Further, an exclusive policy for the revival of Talcher unit of FCIL through JVC of nominated PSUs namely Talcher Fertilizers Limited (TFL) by setting up a new Greenfield urea plant of 12.7 LMTPA at coal gasification route has also been approved.

In addition, the Government also notified the New Urea Policy (NUP) – 2015 on 25th May, 2015 for the existing 25 gas-based urea units with one of the objectives of maximizing indigenous urea production beyond RAC. The NUP-2015 has led to additional production of urea by 20-25 LMT as compared to the production during 2014-15 annually.

Above steps together have facilitated increase of Urea production from level of 225 LMT per annum during 2014-15 to a record Urea Production at 314.07 LMT during 2023-24.

With regard to P & K fertilizers, the Government has implemented Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy w.e.f. 01.04.2010 for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) Fertilizers. Under the policy, a fixed amount of subsidy, decided on annual/bi-annual basis, is provided on notified P&K fertilizers depending on their nutrient content. The P&K sector is decontrolled and the fertilizer companies manufacture/import/develop domestic production capacities of fertilizers as per the market dynamics. Further, to reduce dependency on imported fertilizers, the following measures have been taken by the Government & private sector:

- (i) Based on the requests, the new manufacturing units or increase in manufacturing capacity of existing units have been recognized / taken on record under the NBS subsidy scheme, with a view to boost manufacturing and make country self-reliant in fertilizer production.

(ii) Potash derived from Molasses (PDM) which is 100% indigenously manufactured fertilizer has been notified under Nutrient based subsidy (NBS) scheme.

(iii) Freight Subsidy on SSP, which is an indigenously manufactured fertilizer, is applicable since Kharif, 2022 to promote SSP usage for providing Phosphatic or 'P' nutrient to the soil.

(d): The Government of India has notified and specified Nano Urea, Nano Zinc, Nano DAP, Nano Phosphorus and Nano Copper in the Fertilizer Control Order, 1985. It is required for the every manufacturer to manufacture the Nano Fertilizer of the specification specified in FCO. The scheme on Natural Farming, i.e., National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF), as approved by the Union Cabinet on 25th November 2024 focuses on the adoption of natural farming through package of practices such as use on-farm produced natural inputs such as Beejamrit, Jeevamrit, Dashparni, Neemastra etc., multi-cropping systems, biomass mulching, etc. thereby reducing the dependence from externally purchased chemical inputs and reduce the input cost for cultivation. For easy availability of natural farming inputs for the farmers, 10,000 need-based Bio-input Resources Centres are envisaged to be set up under the Mission. Further, the use of Nano Urea is promoted through different activities such as awareness camps, webinars, nukkad nataks, field demonstrations, Kisan Sammelans and films in regional languages etc. DoF in collaboration with fertilizer companies has initiated a Maha Abhiyan for adoption of Nano DAP in all 15 agro-climatic zones of the country through consultations and field level demonstrations. Also, Department of Fertilizers in collaboration with fertilizer companies has also launched campaign for field level demonstrations and awareness programs of Nano Urea plus in 100 districts of the country.
