

Leave to Appeal (Civil) 3668/2003 has directed, *inter alia*, to review drugs which are essential and life saving in nature till 2nd May, 2003.

(d) The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 does not make any distinction between Life Saving drugs and other drugs. The Drug Policy, as amended from time to time, is directed towards ensuring abundant availability of quality drugs at reasonable prices.

Price of fertilizers in International Market

†3751. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that average prices of chemical fertilizers at the international market during the year 2002-2003 were found less than that of average prices of the same in the Indian market;

(b) the average prices of all the chemical fertilizers at the Indian market as well as international market; and

(c) what are the factors for which prices of chemicals and fertilizers are found higher in the Indian market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Maximum Retail Price (MRP) for urea as notified by the Government has been Rs. 4830 per MT during the year 2002-2003 which was lower than the average international price of \$132.22 per MT (exchange rate of Rs. 48.40). In case of DAP, the indicative MRP during the year 2002-2003 has been Rs. 9350 per MT, against this the average international price of DAP was \$ 192.76 per MT and with the average rupee dollar conversion rate, the average import price of DAP was approximately the same as the MRP in 2002-2003 in the country. As regards Muriat of Potash (MOP), since there are no exploitable reserves of MOP in the country, its entire requirement is met from import. On the other hand, there are no imports of complex fertilizers and Single Super Phosphate (SSP) in the country.

(c) The main reason for the higher cost of production of urea in India is the costlier feedstock compared to the prevalent cost in the other exporting countries in the world. As regard DAP, the variation in the cost of indigenous DAP compared to imported DAP is primarily because of the reason that more than 90% of the raw material/intermediates required for its production are imported and their cost in the international market fluctuate depending on demand supply position.

Promotion to private fertilizer companies

†3752. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to implement new fertilizer policy to increase production of fertilizers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the said policy is likely to be implemented; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.