

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

Tuesday, July 23, 1996/Sravana 1, 1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Subsidy on Fertilizers

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181. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :  
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the present policy of the Government regarding grant of subsidy on fertilizers;

(b) whether the Government have announced the revised rate of subsidy on different fertilizers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total amount of subsidy on fertilizers provided to each State during the last three years;

(e) whether the Government agree to continue the scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (f). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) Subsidy is paid by the Government of India on fertilizers under the Statutory Price Control and Urea is the only fertilizer which is at present under the Statutory Price Control.

(b) and (c). In addition to subsidy, Government of India is also giving concession on sale of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers to the farmers. The rates of concession have been revised for sales effective from 6th July, 1996 as under.

	(Rs. per tonne)
Indigenous Di-Ammonium Phosphate	3000/-
Imported Di-Ammonium Phosphate	1500/-
Muriate of Potash	1500/-
Single Super Phosphate	500/-
Indigenous Complexes	1304-2633/-

(d) Total amount of concession provided for sale of these decontrolled fertilizers in each State during last three years is enclosed as statement.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The scheme of concession is being continued during 1996-97 with effect from 1st April, 1996 to 5th July, 1996 at the earlier rates of concession and from 6th July, 1996 at the revised rates of concession. Detailed guidelines have been issued to the States. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation will continue to reimburse the manufacturers/suppliers on the basis of verification of sales by the States.

#### STATEMENT

States	Funds Released For Sales of 1993-94	Payments made during 1994-95					Payments made during 1995-96				
		DAP	MOP	SSP	Complexes	Total Amt	DAP	MOP	SSP	Complexes	Total Amt
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Andhra Pradesh	7697.80	2911.37	610.21	569.48	3323.95	7415.01	2262.05	794.20	539.49	3662.11	7257.85
Karnataka	5125.77	1395.66	775.09	132.39	2167.49	4440.63	1028.57	494.40	117.73	1822.60	3863.30
Kerala	1521.58	12.53	508.02	0.82	416.74	938.11	7.96	302.77	5.16	190.88	506.77
Tamil Nadu	6306.50	1231.38	1938.43	200.27	1910.09	5280.17	819.95	1851.80	205.60	1651.34	4528.69
Pondicherry	120.94	25.30	39.38	4.05	24.60	93.33	19.15	52.78	5.19	45.55	122.67
Andaman & Nicobar Is	1.24										
Gujarat	4020.33	1520.87	490.62	208.79	554.19	2274.47	2605.77	479.97	180.77	525.04	3791.55
Madhya Pradesh	3192.50	1385.62	203.75	441.85	610.62	2641.84	1050.21	339.70	1177.73	612.23	3179.57
Maharashtra	6620.02	1381.91	864.13	1140.64	2743.56	6130.24	1597.17	1002.43	1239.15	3252.84	7091.5
Rajasthan	1974.40	988.42	30.20	194.69	409.92	1632.23	969.85	25.63	348.45	257.84	1601.7
Goa	18.66	3.17	3.89		24.67	31.73	1.02	3.70	0.00	31.64	36.36
Daman & Diu	0.55										
Haryana	1058.28	2153.75	19.07	15.74	18.17	2206.73	767.59	14.53	68.79	14.58	865.49
Punjab	2515.25	2546.94	158.45	481.17	249.90	3436.46	1324.62	123.42	62.81	140.25	2191.10
Uttar Pradesh	4943.83	4669.81	871.14	1101.47	1393.86	8036.28	4146.11	562.16	1241.49	1445.82	7335.58

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I am asking whether the Central Government will go back again to the old system of distribution followed two years back.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It is because of the liberalisation policy which your Government adopted without my consent!...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH : Why did he volunteer to reply to the question when he is not dealing with the subject?...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It is true that urea is not under me but I can give information about the price etc. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH : Why did you rise in your seat when you are not in a position to give information about urea...the Minister concerned should have replied to the question

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I am not asking about price. The Central Government had a policy of distribution all over India two years back. The concerned hon. Minister should get up and reply my question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question relates to subsidy on fertilisers.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I am asking about subsidy on fertilisers. The Central Government followed a different policy two years back. It used to monitor the distribution all over India.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It is not possible just now to do it. What I am saying is that subsidy is only for urea. So far as DAP is concerned, it has been decontrolled. We are giving some concession. What we have announced recently is a concession given on DAP and other items. It is not subsidy. Generally it is called subsidy. The figures are given. I need not repeat them...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have already asked your Supplementary question.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : The hon. Minister is telling a different thing...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question does not relate to the Ministry of Agriculture...(Interruptions) The concerned Department should answer the question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question relates to his Ministry but the supplementary does not relate to his Ministry.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is well known that fertilizers have made significant contribution is ushering in green revolution in the

country and in making the country self sufficient in the matter of foodgrains. The Government has sanctioned subsidy for the fertilisers whether it is DAP, MOP or SSP etc. The present policy of the Government is to give subsidy to the manufacturers of urea or to the cooperatives. Will the farmers purchasing urea from private traders be also given the benefit of the Govt. Subsidy?

At present the big farmers and the manufacturers are the beneficiaries of the subsidy on urea, because the cooperatives are controlled by big farmers. The small and marginal farmers are ignorant of these facilities and they purchase their requirement of urea from private traders. Will the farmers purchasing urea from private traders be also given the benefit of subsidy?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are giving subsidy only to the State Governments and the cooperatives. We do not give subsidy to private traders.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Union Government has issued guidelines to the State Governments in this respect. I would like to know the details thereof your objective is to ensure that the farmer gets fertilizers at cheap rate and without hassles. Does he purchase fertilizers through the cooperatives as per the policy laid down by the State Governments? The Central Govt. should issue guidelines about the purchase of fertilizers from private traders.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I have already made it clear that we give subsidy only to the state Government and the cooperatives, it is not possible to give it to private traders while calculating the subsidy the State-Governments take into account the expenses on account of transportation and other sundry expenses. If the hon. Members want, we can make available the latest figures, as reading them out would be time consuming.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER. You may provide it later on.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : At least the Union Government can issue guidelines.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : To whom?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can lay on the Table of the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Guidelines may be issued to the State Government so as to benefit the farmers.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It is not our policy to ignore the cooperative sector and benefit the private sector.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Himachal Pradesh	60.80	-	15.00	14.39	15.31	44.70	0.00	3.50	1.82	70.96	76.28
Jammu & Kashmir	276.95	26.54	7.20	-	-	33.74	40.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.90
Chandigarh Adm.	0.28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.58
Bihar	1166.00	1004.63	488.43	409.29	152.58	2054.93	656.58	415.20	269.94	91.33	1433.05
Orissa	761.72	87.37	92.17	8.14	211.23	398.91	213.16	465.57	85.83	486.87	1251.43
West Bengal	5469.48	1323.09	1046.00	339.91	901.77	3610.77	1046.25	1202.60	1007.90	1151.39	4408.14
Assam	144.90	36.37	100.89	14.23	-	151.49	44.43	218.11	32.39	0.00	294.93
Tripura	45.70	-	36.38	12.23	-	48.71	0.00	15.62	5.27	0.00	20.89
Meghalaya	17.96	3.00	1.00	4.76	-	8.76	3.50	2.00	8.50	0.00	14.00
Sikkim	7.20	1.32	-	-	-	1.32	3.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.07
Manipur	48.54	-	-	-	-	-	7.70	3.71	5.66	0.00	17.07
Mizoram	5.88	-	-	-	-	-	1.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.34
Arunachal Pradesh	1.03	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nagaland	2.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	53126.75	22679.05	8299.45	5294.41	15128.65	51401.56	18623.53	8773.80	7149.37	15453.27	49999.97

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as on Today, we are importing a substantial quantity of fertilisers. We do know that fertiliser is the most important thing in agricultural production. In fact, as on today, though we have substantially improved in recent years, still we have shortages in food production. To improve it, we need the fertilisers. It is very dangerous to depend upon imported fertilisers.

So, I want to ask the hon. Minister, through you, what steps he is going to take to curb the import of fertilisers in future. We have got, for instance, a clear-cut, stable and long-term policy on power and so on. But on fertilisers, what I understand is that there is no such specific long-term policy. It is the manufacturers' felling that, every year, it keeps changing and, therefore, it is a problem. So, we have to control the import of fertilisers. A day must come when we must be self-sufficient in production. You must give a long-term policy for the manufacturers' to stimulate them in such a way that the production goes up, and a day must come when the imports must stop. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to have a long-term, stable policy on fertilisers; he must have the policy in a such a way that the production goes up, and a day must come when the imports should be stopped.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, I agree with the viewpoint which the hon. Member has stated. But unfortunately, the subject of fertilisers does not form part of my Ministry; it goes to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers. Therefore, I am unable to reply to his question, although I agree with his viewpoint.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, the subject is fertilisers. Perhaps, it might be the fault of the administration which has referred it to the Ministry of agriculture instead of some other Ministry.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The point is that I am the Minister of Agriculture, and, as you are aware,

the subject of fertiliser production comes under another Ministry. So, what can I do? I want to help the Member, but I cannot.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can pass on the question to the concerned Ministry.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, about two years back, the Central Government used to give subsidies and also used to follow-up with all the factories all over India.

I understand that at that time it was very perfect and the benefit was going to the farmer very effectively and very efficiently through the manufacturers. But the system has been changed some two years back and now I understand that each State Government has a different policy in fixing the price due to which reasons substantial time and redtapism is taking place in such a way that the manufacturer is not in position to give the fertiliser to the farmer at the proper time. Therefore, I want to ask if it is possible to go back again to the old system of Central Government giving subsidy in such a way that the Central Government will only monitor all over India the subsidy distribution system.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The point is that so far as subsidy is concerned, it is only for urea, not for all the items.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I know it  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I want to inform the House that urea is not under my jurisdiction. But since the question is addressed to me, I am replying to it. Otherwise, it goes to another Ministry.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are save from urea!

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I can give the hon. Member the figures if he wants. But that subject does not relate to my Ministry.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : But, Sir, the fertilizers are not made available on time and the requirement of the farmer is not met when he needs it the most.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Rawat, you have made your point.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : You should bring such instances to our notice and we would sound the State Governments.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, There are some SSP units which are facing a crisis because of non-payment of subsidy to those units. One such unit is in my constituency called the Sardha Fertiliser unit which has been closed down because of non-payment of subsidy to the extent of Rs. three crore. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will take steps to clear the subsidy dues of all the SSP units our country, specially of the Sardha Fertilizer unit situated in my constituency. Because of closure of this unit, the farmers are also facing problems. They are not getting the fertiliser. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he will take steps or order to clear the dues of the SSP units.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : About this particular factory, I am not aware of it. If it is brought to my notice, Certainly I will help the Member to arrive at a solution. But I cannot say that I will pay them. If the due is proper, I will pay them. Otherwise, I will not pay them.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Would you kindly take up the matter with the FICC?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : That is not my subject. You may write to the Minister concerned.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The farmers are facing difficulties. It is your responsibility.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, ... (Interruptions) Madhya Pradesh is experiencing acute scarcity of urea for the past 3-4 years and as a result, it has not been made available to the farmers. Because of the dual policy in respect of urea, the farmers have to pay higher prices for the urea purchased from private traders as compared to the cooperatives. The farmers have, therefore, stopped purchasing urea from private traders. This has created a urea crisis in Madhya Pradesh. I would like to know the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the scarcity of urea in Madhya Pradesh. Secondly, the quantum of subsidy on fertilisers being given to Madhya Pradesh is on the lower side. The hon. Minister may kindly enlighten us on the criterion adopted to grant the subsidy.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we do not disseminate between the various states. The states whose agriculture had advanced considerably, consumes more urea. Punjab and Madhya Pradesh consume more urea because of the rapid studies made by them in the field of agriculture.

SHRI SHIV RAJ SINGH : Why is there shortage of urea in Madhya Pradesh?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has rightly been pointed out by the hon. Members that indigenous urea is cheaper as compared to the imported urea by Rs. 3624 per tonne. But, unfortunately, indigenous production is not sufficient to meet the demand. Some of the urea producing units are sick and we have to import urea to meet the shortfall. I would again repeat that urea is not within the jurisdiction of my Ministry... (Interruptions)

As regards Madhya Pradesh, as per my information, there is not scarcity of urea in the state. In case the hon. Member has some specific area in mind, I would get it verified.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Sir, DAP fertilizer is not available in Madhya Pradesh. The Government had noted the demand of the farmers who had even made advance deposit with the Government for the fertilizer. But in spite of it the state Government failed to supply this particular fertilizer last year.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may address a separate communication to the hon. Minister on the subject.

[English]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : You give me in writing I will take action.

[Translation]

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is time that another Ministry deals with the fertilizers, but his ministry deals with a subject which requires fertilizers as an important input. He should therefore, keep herself imformed about the subject. In the current crop season, when paddy is being sown, urea would be needed in large quantity Rs.133 crores have been spent without receiving supplies of urea from abroad. In Punjab the urea producing unit in Nangal and Bhatinda are facing closure. About 7000 employees of both the units met me. They complained that they are not getting the facilities due to them. I made inquires to find out the factual position. I have come to know that after the 133 crore urea scam, no further investment is being made on the units. These units may have to close down, which would harm the interest of Punjab what steps have you taken to stop the closure down, which would harm the interest of Punjab. What steps have you taken to stop the closure of NFL urea factories in Nangal and Bhatinda, which are on the verge of closure?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It is true that several urea producing units are sick. There is need to undermix there at the earliest. I had written to the Planning that we are spending more than Rs. 2,000 crores on importing urea, which can be fruitfully used to revive and modernise the sick urea producing factories. In this way we can

meet the entire urea demand indigenously. I would request the hon. Member that he should also pursue the matter with the Planning Commission.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : Perhaps Hon'ble Member is not aware that these two factories situated in Punjab are not sick. Their performance is excellent. That is why I requested that these two factories which are showing good performance, are producing more than their installed capacity and have got awards also, should not face closure. The nation will suffer heavy losses if they close down.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is true and I have given my concurrence. I have forwarded it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is standing in the centre neither left nor right.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This observation will serve no purpose as the question has been put to the Central Government.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not use such language

*[Translation]*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : The statement appended to the question reveals that the Union Territories have not received a fair deal. In the statement the figure against Andaman and Nicobar for the year 1994 is 1.24 and all other columns are blank. The inevitable conclusion is that the farmers of Andaman and Nicobar are not entitled to the subsidy on fertilizers. May be the hon. Minister is ignorant of the fact that the remote areas of the country and the union territories are an integral part of the the country. Will the hon. Minister make special arrangements for ensuring subsidy or fertilizers for remote area like Andaman and Nicobar islands so that the farmers in these areas may also avail of the the facility?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The dots in the statement against Andaman and Nicobar indicate that information has not been received and it should not be considered that nothing has been done.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Who will supply this information.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We have to give the information and you have to receive the information. But I would still reiterate that if supplies are not being made in your area we will take necessary steps at the earliest...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : It is not over yet this is a matter pertaining to fertilizers and the farmers require

it...*(Interruptions)* This is a very important question. Will the Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. This is indeed an important question. Everyone is interested in it. It is concerned with farmers. It would be better to have a half-an-hour discussion over it.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want comprehensive reply outlining the steps taken in each state. It is for the Government to ensure equitable distribution of fertilizers among the various states and its supply to the farmers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All this information can be elicited in the Half-an-Hour Discussion.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This question has already taken 25 minutes. Please sit down.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will there be an end to it? I have already moved to the next question.

*[Translation]*

This question has already taken 25 minutes. Please discuss this subject in the form of some motion say half an hour discussion. Will we spend one hour on a single question?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : In case you give us information about the areas where fertilizers are in short supply, we will order an enquiry...*(Interruptions)* you may please give the names of the areas where it is not available...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may resume your seat. Even if the Members continue to ask the question.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is not good. Please sit down. I am taking up the second question.

### Computerised Reservation Centres

\*182. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY  
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of computerised reservation centres in the country at present, Zone-wise;

(b) the names of stations where computerised reservation centres are proposed to be opened by the Government during 1996-97; and