

the two countries for cooperation in the Agricultural sector. However, during the visit of Iraqi Minister for Agriculture to India from 9th to 13th February, 1999 India agreed to provide short-term and long-term training/Master's and Ph.D courses in agriculture to the Iraqi students. Iraq has shown interest in importing some agriculture equipments and goods, soya meal for poultry feeding, first born pregnant cows and bulls, seeds of vegetables and other crops, pesticides, veterinary medicines and vaccines etc. from India.

Use of Indian Languages

2173. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether English is predominantly used in computer education in the country and other Indian languages are given lesser preference which may eventually result in their disappearance; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote the use of other languages in computer education?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH: (a) and (b) The Department of Electronics have already initiated activities in the area of Technology Development for Indian Languages with the following objectives:

- To develop information processing tools to facilitate human machine interaction, information processing in Indian languages and development of multilingual knowledge systems.
- To promote use of information processing tools for language studies and research.
- To support R&D efforts in the area of information processing in Indian languages covering machine translation, human machine interaction, language learning and natural language processing.

2. These activities have helped to offer solutions in Indian languages which *inter alia*, include Software products for various PC applications such as Word processing, Publishing, Spread Sheet, Spell checking, scripts processing, Machine Aided Translation between English and other Regional Languages etc.

[English]

Control on Nitrogenous Fertilizers

2174. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to decontrol nitrogenous fertilisers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the production cost and selling price alongwith subsidies given on nitrogenous fertilisers in the country; and

(d) the production cost, selling price and subsidies granted on other varieties of fertilisers at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The cost of production of urea varies from unit to unit and from time to time depending on the vintage of the plant, location, feedstock used, etc. The statutory sale price of urea, which is the only controlled fertilizer, is currently fixed at Rs. 4000/- per MT.. The difference between the cost of production including reasonable returns and the statutorily fixed selling price is paid as subsidy. Therefore the rate of subsidy on urea varies from unit to unit. The total amount of subsidy paid on other nitrogenous fertilizers.

(d) The cost of production of other fertilizers also varies from unit to unit. The Government gives a concession (subsidy) to the manufacturers and importers of phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilizers and indicates their Maximum Retail Prices (MRP). The MRPs and the rates of concession currently in operation for various P&K fertilizers are indicated below:

Fertilisers	MRP (Rs. per MT)	Concession (Rs. per MT)
DAP (Indigenous)	8300	4400
DAP (Imported)	8300	3400
MOP	3700	3000
SSP	*	900
Complexes	6200-8000	2477-4071

*Fixed by respective State Governments.