

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) A High Powered Fertilizer Pricing Policy Review Committee has been constituted on 28.1.97 to review the existing system of subsidization of urea and suggest a rational, broad based, scientific and transparent methodology. The Composition and Terms of Reference of the Committee is shown in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The Committee is required to submit its recommendations within a period of six months.

(d) and (e) A report on the decisions which are eventually taken by the Government in the light of the recommendations of the Committee will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Statement

Composition of the Committee

1. Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao,
Former Member, Planning Commission - Chairman
2. Prof. G.B. Bhalla
3. Shri P.B. Krishnaswamy
Former Secretary, D/o Fertilizers - Member
4. Chairman, Bureau of Industrial Costs
and Prices (BICP) (ex-officio) - Member
5. Shri O.N. Kapur
Chairman-cum-Managing Director
Project and Development India Ltd. (PDIL) - Member
6. Smt. Kanta Ahuja
Economist, Jaipur - Member
7. Executive Director
Fertilizer Industry Coordination
Committee (FICC)
(Ex-officio Secretary) - Member

Terms of Reference of the Committee

(i) To review the working of the Retention Price Scheme (RPS) for fertilizers and to make suggestions for correcting the deficiencies of the system, keeping in view the broad objectives of economic reform. The Committee may also suggest an alternative methodology which should be broad based, scientific and transparent.

(ii) To review the adequacy or otherwise of incentives to the industry. Issues relating to reasonableness of return on networth, norms of capacity utilization, depreciation etc.

(iii) To suggest appropriate capital norms and debt equity ratio in respect of new fertilizer projects.

(iv) To review the input pricing policy and its impact on the RPS.

(v) To review the system of equated freight and recommend measures to rationalise it, including minimisation of cross country movement to reduce leads.

(vi) To suggest measures to improve the cohesiveness of the policies in respect of the controlled and decontrolled segments of the fertilizer industry, especially the policies impinging on the availability of fertilizers and the relative pricing of controlled and decontrolled fertilizers with a view to achieving an agronomically desirable NPK consumption ratio, while keeping the fertilizer subsidy at a reasonable level.

(vii) Any other item that may be considered appropriate.

VIP Security

5896. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "VIP security, drain on resources Home Secy." appearing in the 'Hindustan Times', dated February 21, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to withdraw the security provided to such persons including the Members of Parliament who no longer require the same and allow the police to perform their normal duties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India and as such the responsibility for providing security to the persons residing within their jurisdiction is that of the concerned State/UTs. As regards Delhi, applications made by various persons for providing personal security on various grounds are got vetted by the security agencies. In other circumstances, the requirement should generally be met by the normal police set up. The cases are periodically reviewed and security arrangements are modified/withdrawn as warranted from time to time.

Hilsha Fish

5897. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to increase Hilsha Fish Production in the river Ganga;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the plans to boost up fish production in the State?