

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3665
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2000
DECONTROL OF MOP
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Muriate of Potash (MOP) was decontrolled in 1992 and imports decanalised in June,1993;
- (b) if so, there was no import of MOP since then but private companies are importing it freely;
- (c) if so, whether the farmers are being charged high prices for this product;
- (d) if so, whether Government propose to restrict the private traders from charging high prices of MOP; and
- (e) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : Muriate of Potash (MOP) was decontrolled on 25.8.1992 and its imports decanalisedw.e.f 17.6.1993. The imports of MOP and other potassic fertilizers can be made freely on private trade account. There being no commercially exploitable reserves of MOP in the country, the entire requirement is met from imports. Imports of MOP in the country since 1992-93 are given as under:

Year Quantity of MOP imported (Lakh MTs)

1992-93	17.66
1993-94	14.54
1994-95	18.48
1995-96	21.92
1996-97	10.21
1997-98	19.00
1998-99	25.70
1999-2000	28.98
2000-2001	19.60

(1.4.2000 to 30.11.2000)

(c),(d)&(e): In order to safeguard the interests of farmers, Government of India notify the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of MOP on the basis of normated cost of imports and provide subsidy to importers of MOP under the Concession Scheme of decontrolled fertilizers.