

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3969
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2000
JOINT VENTURE FOR PRODUCTION OF MURIATE OF POTASH MOP
A. VENKATESH NAIK;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether the country does not produce Muriate of Potash (MOP) and is totally dependent on its import;
- (b) if so, the quantum of MOP being imported annually and the expenditure being incurred thereon;
- (c) whether the Government have decided to set up joint ventures in the country or abroad for manufacture of MOP;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken in this direction?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. There being no commercially exploitable reserves of Muriate of Potash (MOP) in the country, the entire requirement is met from imports. MOP has been decontrolled since 25.8.1992 and its imports decanalised with effect from 17.6.1993. The imports of MOP and other potassic fertilizers are made freely on private trade account. The Department of Fertilizers does not maintain information regarding sources, prices and expenditure incurred on them except in case of MOP procured under soft loan from Germany. The quantity and expenditure incurred on MOP imports under the German soft loan have been as under:

Year	Quantity (in lakh MTs)	Total Expenditure (in million US \$)
1997-98	1.27	14.78
1998-99	2.53	28.83
1999-2000	1.65	19.35

(c) to (e): No Sir, there is no such proposal at present. However, the Department of Fertilizers has constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Fertilizers to finalize the long term policy for setting up of joint ventures of fertilizer sector abroad.