

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2822  
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2004  
BUNGLING IN IMPORT OF POTASH  
Singh Shri Sitaram

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

- (a) Whether the Government is aware of the import of potash by fertilizer mafias in the country, as reported in Hindustan Times dated June 23, 2004;
- (b) if so, facts thereof ;
- (c) the loss suffered by the Government due to import of potash; and
- (d) the remedial steps taken by the Government against fertilizer mafias?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) & (b) No sir.

(c) & (d): The import of MOP is free in the country. The Government does not import MOP, however the concession is paid to importers under the concession scheme, on the sale of MOP for direct agricultural use. This year the price of MOP registered steep increase in the international market, therefore the imports are taking place at higher price. This is leading to increase in concession/subsidy payment on MOP.