

*[Translation]***Import of Fertilizers**

*155. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

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

(a) whether as a result of the liberalised import policy the fertilizers have been imported in large quantity during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has adversely affected the production in the public and private sector fertilizer units in the country; and

(d) if so, the decrease in the production of fertilizers in the Public Undertaking Units during the last six months ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) :
(a) and (b) Urea, DAP and MOP are three major fertilizers currently being imported. Urea, which is the only fertilizer under price, distribution and movement control is being imported on Government account through designated canalising agencies. The import of urea during September '96—February '97 have been 17.28 lakh metric tonnes (LMTs) which is lower if compared to the corresponding period of last year.

The imports of DAP and MOP were decanalised w.e.f. 17.9.1992 and 17.6.1993, respectively. Since then, they are imported freely. According to information available with the Department of Fertilizers, DAP imports during 1996-97 (upto Jan '97) were 5.05 LMTs as compared to the imports of 14.06 LMTs made during the whole of the previous year.

Since there is no commercially viable source of potash in the country, the entire requirement is being met through imports. During 1996-97 (upto Jan '97), MOP imports have reportedly been 7.34 LMTs as compared to the import of 21.92 LMTs made during 1995-96.

(c) and (d) The imports of Urea and DAP are made every year for bridging the gap between demand and indigenous availability. These have not affected the indigenous production which has been lower by 5.28 LMTs in respect of Urea during 1996-97 (upto Jan. '97) against the target on account of the reduced level of gas supplies, equipment related technical difficulties, financial constraints, industrial relation problems, etc. in different units both in public as well as the private sectors. The production of DAP has, however, been higher than the target during the same period.

*[English]***Supply Under P.D.S.**

*156. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have increased the monthly allocation of the foodgrains and other items for the Public Distribution System from January, 1997 onwards;

(b) if so, the total additional allocation made to each State, grain and item-wise;

(c) the total demand made by the State Governments to provide food grains and other items to them, grain and item-wise;

(d) whether additional supply made by the Government to the State Governments is not sufficient to meet their demand; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the need of each State ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) Allocation of commodities under PDS is made to the States/UTs based on past demands, offtake trends, relative need and other relevant factors. Additional demands received from time to time from the States/UTs are considered and allocations are made on the above basis, keeping simultaneously in view the need to maintain a buffer stock at the prescribed norms.

Allocation of sugar is made to the States/UTs every month on the basis of 425 grams per capita as per 1991 population. Besides, an additional quota of one lakh tonnes per annum is also released to States/UTs as festival quota which is allocated in the month of their choice in proportion to their monthly levy quota. In view of the better availability of sugar, the festival quota was doubled for the calendar year 1996 as also adhoc increase to the tune of 10% in the monthly levy quote of all States/UTs from the month of December, 1996 onward has been granted and release orders issued accordingly.

As regards kerosene, an attempt is now being made to bring those States/UTs where the per capita availability is less than national average, to the national average level. At present only 60% of the required quantity of kerosene is indigenously produced and the balance is imported.

As regards edible oil, whenever the prices of this item rise sharply in the market, Central Government imports oil like palmolein through STC and allots it to the States/UTs for distribution under PDS.

In so far as soft coke is concerned, allocation to the State Government is made from out of the stocks held by the Public Sector Coal companies.

Information relating to month-wise and State-wise allocation from December, 1996 to March, 1997 of wheat, rice, sugar, edible oil, kerosene and soft coke is given in the statement enclosed.