

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:178
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
CRITERIA FOR GOOD QUALITY FERTILIZERS
Singh Shri Ramsevak (Babuji)

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

- (a) the number of Public and Private sector chemicals and fertilizers manufacturing companies functioning in the country at present;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that farmers are not getting good fertilizers thereby yield of crops and fertility of land being affected;
- (c) the criteria fixed by the government for fertilizer manufacturing companies to maintain quality; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to provide fertilizers to the farmers for coming kharif crop as per their requirements?

Answer

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

(a) There are two Public Sector Undertakings in chemical sector excluding Pharmaceuticals and a large number of chemical units in the private sector. There are 45 major fertilizers plants in Public, Cooperative and Private Sector manufacturing fertilizers in the country.

(b) and (c) No such report has come to the notice of the government about non receipt of quality fertilizers to farmers. However, for ensuring the adequate availability of right quality of fertilizers to the farmers at reasonable prices throughout the country, the Government of India has declared fertilizer as an essential commodity and enacted the Fertilizer (Control) Order (FCO), 1957 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act (ECA). The Fertilizer (Control) Order (FCO) was subsequently revised in 1985. The FCO regulates the trade, price, quality and distribution of fertilizers in the country. The standards of various fertilizers have been laid down in Schedule-I Part A of FCO and it is mandatory under Clause 19 to sell/ manufacture only such fertilizers which conform to the standards laid down in the schedule of the FCO. No person is allowed to sell/manufacture fertilizers, which do not conform to the standards as laid down in the Schedule. Any such violation would lead to punitive and administrative action against the offenders. The State Governments are primarily responsible for implementing the FCO provisions and are adequately empowered under the Order/ECA to take action. There are 67 fertilizer quality control laboratories in the country including 4 of the Central Government at Faridabad, Chennai, Mumbai and Kalyani for testing the samples drawn by the Fertilizers' Inspectors from the fields/manufacturers. The analyzing capacity of these laboratories is about 1.25 lakh samples per annum and only about 5.5% samples have been found to be non-standard during 2003-04.

(d) The Department has asked the Urea manufacturing units to produce beyond their installed capacities by increasing their stream days, postponing turn around etc. About 3.5 lakh MT of additional Urea is estimated to be produced in the season. In addition as Government is also importing about 16.52 lakh MT every year from OMIFO, a joint company setup in Sur, Oman by Oman Oil Company and IFFCO and KRIBHCO. Further, the Government has also tied up with canalizing agents i.e. IPL and MMTC to import the required additional Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) to augment supplies. It is expected that these measures would be sufficient to meet the requirement of fertilizers for the current Kharif season.