

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3160

ANSWERED ON:06.09.2007

LOSS OF KHARIF CROPS DUE TO SHORTAGE OF FERTILIZERS

Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the loss of Kharif crops due to shortage of fertilizers, particularly DAP in some of the States like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh etc;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for modifications in the fertilizer policy by the Government just before the monsoon season;
- (d) whether the Government proposed to provide some grants for the crops damaged due to non-availability of fertilizers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): Only 50% of indigenously produced urea is under movement and distribution control of the Government. Movement and distribution of all other fertilizers including DAP are decontrolled since 1992. The State Governments have been repeatedly advised by the Department of Fertilizers to ensure adequate supplies from the Suppliers/Importers before the start of every cropping season so that the farmers do not face shortages of these fertilizers.

However, there have been gaps between demand and committed supply by the fertilizer companies, particularly of DAP during the current Kharif season. This is attributable to the reluctance of the manufacturers and importers to manufacture or import to the full extent of requirement, due to the high international prices of raw materials and finished products. Department of Fertilizers has stepped in to arrange imports of these fertilizers through State Trading Agencies like M/s Indian Potash Limited. Since these agencies do not have adequate marketing and distribution network in all the deficit states to be able to reach these fertilizers to the farmers, the states have been requested to identify institutional agencies, which will undertake marketing and distribution of fertilizers from the rake points. Full requirement of DAP in both the States of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar is being met through the above arrangement.

(d) & (e): Do not arise.