

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3364

ANSWERED ON:15.04.2010

DISPLAY OF MRP ON FERTILIZER BAGS

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

(a) whether there is growing apprehension that the Maximum Retail Price on fertilizer bags may not be clearly visible in the aftermath of the introduction of Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy;

(b) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to ensure that stocks and the Maximum Retail Prices (MRP) of fertilizers are clearly displayed for the benefit of the farmers;

(c) whether as per the new policy fertilizer companies are free to sell new products in the market without field trials and pre-scientific utility test; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure sale of quality fertilizers by fertilizers companies ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) & (b): Clause 21 of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 (FCO) lays down certain requirements in regard to packing and marking on the bags containing fertilizers for compliance by the manufacturers/importers and pool handling agencies. The Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy also requires the fertilizers companies to print retail price alongwith applicable subsidy on the fertilizer bags clearly. Any sale above the printed retail price will be punishable under the Essential Commodities Act.

(c) & (d): An Inter Ministerial Committee has been constituted under the Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy with Secretary (Fertilizers) as Chairperson and Joint Secretary level representatives of DAC, Department of Expenditure, Planning Commission and Department of Agricultural Research and Education. The committee, inter-alia, may recommend the inclusion of the new fertilizers under the subsidy regime based on the application of manufacturers/importers and its need appraisal by the Indian Council for Agricultural Research for decision by the Government. The Central Government and the State Governments invoke the various provisions under the FCO to ensure the supply of the quality fertilizers to the farmers.