

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:511
ANSWERED ON:11.11.2010
SMUGGLING OF FERTILIZERS
Patil Shri A.T. Nana

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

- (a) whether fertilizers worth crores of rupees is being smuggled to the neighbouring countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to States adjoining international borders in this regard;
- (d) if so, the States which have been issued the guidelines by the Government;
- (e) whether any smuggler has been caught smuggling fertilizers on the border of a State;
- (f) if so, the number of cases of smuggling which have come to light during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (g) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): There are reports of smuggling of fertilizers from India to neighbouring countries. However, these have not been confirmed by the State Governments. The Chief Secretaries in the States and Border Guarding Authorities like Border Security Force (BSF), Coast Guards and Custom authorities etc. have been alerted by Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Finance to keep strict vigil on such activities which may lead to illegal exports/smuggling of fertilizers and initiate stringent action against the persons involved in such malpractices under the provision of FCO, 1985.

(e) to (g): The provision contained in Para 3 of Fertilizer (Movement Control) Order, 1973 – Prohibits the illegal export/smuggling of fertilizers. Instances of illegal export of Muriate of Potash (MOP) and Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) packed in the brand common Salt and Soda Ash from Gujarat has come to notice. The consignment has been seized by Custom Authorities at Kandla Port. Similarly, Government of Maharashtra has also intimated that the fertilizer is being exported illegally in the name of Soda Ash, Salt etc. This complaint was on the basis of seizure of about 4000 bags of 50 Kg. (each having imprinted as Soda Ash but containing DAP as per testing report) by the District Quality Control Inspector while inspecting the Godown of M/s Transworld Furtichem Pvt. Ltd., Roha, District, Raigad on 27th January, 2010. In this regard necessary legal proceedings are being initiated by the concerned authorities. Similarly in Karnataka, Bangalore customs have seized 1156 MT of MOP from six traders and have initiated legal proceedings. The respective State Government's will be taking appropriate action against offenders as per provisions of law.

Recently also, Department of Fertilizers has written to Chief Secretaries of the States having international boundaries for initiating action against person/persons involved in smuggling of fertilizers with the help of Central/State enforcement agencies.