

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:317
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2012
CONSUMPTION OF FERTILIZERS
Ram Shri Purnmasi

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

- (a) whether the agricultural production in the country has increased in consonance with the increase in consumption of fertilizers during the years 2003-04 to 2008-09;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the pattern of fertilizer consumption across different States is highly skewed;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government has received some complaints regarding the use of subsidized fertilizer for non-agricultural purposes; and
- (f) if so, the corrective measures taken/ proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (f) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 317 to be answered on 26.4.2012.

(a) to (b): Yes, Madam. Consumption (sales) of fertilizers has increased from the year 2003-04 to 2008-09. The average increase of fertilizer consumption (sales) like Urea, DAP, MOP & Complex fertilizers in the year 2008-09 over the year 2003-04 is about 53%. The consumption (sales) of fertilizers depends on Good monsoons combined with increased irrigation facilities, increased area under cultivation, better awareness about usage of fertilizers amongst farmers and better purchasing power in the rural areas which resulted in increase in consumption of fertilizers from 2003-04 onwards. The average increase in agriculture production of food grains like Rice, Wheat, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Barley, Cereals and pulses like Tur, Gram, Urad, Moong etc. in the year 2008-09 over the year 2003-04 is about 10%. The average increase in production of oilseeds & other commercial crops like Groundnut, Castorseed, Sesamum, Nigerseed, Rapeseed, Linseed, Sunflower, Soyabean, Cotton, Jute, Mesta, Sugarcane etc. in the year 2008-09 over the year 2003-04 is about 22%.

(c) to (d): The consumption (sales) of fertilizers varies from State to State because of varied geographical area, irrigation facilities etc and other agriculture practices.

(e) to (f): Yes Madam. One complaint has been received. Under clause 25 of the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), 1985, it is mandatory to sell or use fertilizer for the purpose of fertilization of soil or increase of productivity of crops only. Any person violating this mandatory provision of FCO is held liable under the provisions of FCO and Essential Commodities Act. The State Governments as enforcement agencies are adequately empowered to take appropriate action against the offenders who indulge in any kind of malpractices. There are reports of smuggling of fertilizers from India to neighboring countries. However, these have not been confirmed by the State Governments. The State Governments have been advised by the Department of Fertilizers to keep a vigil and to check smuggling of fertilizers from India to other neighboring countries through land and sea routes. Similarly Union Home Ministry has also alerted Border guarding forces viz., Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Assam Rifles and Sashastra Seema Bal and Coast Guard to maintain strict vigilance on the borders to curb smuggling of fertilizers. Further Ministry of Home Affairs has also addressed the Chief Secretaries of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal to sensitize the authorities concerned to curb the smuggling of fertilizers into the neighboring countries. The State Governments are primarily, the enforcement agencies under FCO, 1985. The State Governments and other enforcement agencies have also been advised from time to time to check the diversion of subsidized fertilizers for non agriculture use. Also Vigilance is being stepped up.