

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3574
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2012
NEW TECHNOLOGY OF EXTRACTING POTASH FERTILIZERS
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to identify the new technology of extracting potash fertilizers from the sea water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such technology is likely to substitute the present demand for potash fertilizers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (d) Yes, Madam. The Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSMCRI), Bhavnagar, a constituent laboratory of Central Scientific Industrial Research (CSIR) has developed a process technology for producing Sulphate of Potash from sea bittern and has patented the technology. The National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC), alongwith Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, and Fertilizer Association of India, New Delhi have identified this patented process of CSIR-CSMCRI as a promising new technology of extracting Sulphate of Potash (SOP) from sea water. As a pilot effort, two test beds (0.75 tonnes per day at CSMCRI, Bhavnagar and 3 tonnes per day at M/s Tata Chemicals Ltd., Mithapur) have been sanctioned by Department of Science and Technology during 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively for integrated production of Fertilizer Control Order (FCO) grade SOP. Once these pilot test beds become a success story, the technology could be leveraged to a commercial scale manufacturing plants. The nation's present demand for Potash fertilizers is at the order of 5 million tonnes per year.