

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:308
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2012
VARIATION IN PRICES OF POTASH
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Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is a major buyer of potash in the International market;
- (b) if so, the quantum of Potash imported by India during the last three years;
- (c) the names of those countries selling potash in the International market especially to India indicating the import price;
- (d) whether the prices of potash fertilizers are likely to be increased as a result of fluctuation in International market; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Madam. India is a major buyer of Potash in the international market.

(b): The details of import of Potash during the last 3 years are given below.

Import of Potash by India (Lakh Tonnes)

Year Muriate of Potash (MOP) Sulphate of Potash (SOP)

2009-10 52.86 0.37

2010-11 63.5 0.29

2011-12 39.8 0.30

(c): The names of the countries selling Potash in the international market, especially to India include Canada, CIS (Belarus, Lithuania and Russia), Israel, Jordan, Germany, Spain, Chile, etc.

Year Average FOB price of Potash
(US\$/tonne)

2009-10 471

Price does not include ocean freight

(d)&(e): Under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy a fixed subsidy, decided on annual basis, is provided on subsidised Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers depending on its nutrient content. The Maximum Retail price (MRP) is fixed by fertilizer companies.

India being totally dependent on imports in Potassic fertilizers either in the form of raw material or finished fertilizers, the international prices affects the delivered price of Potassic fertilizers which in turn affect the retail prices of these fertilizers in the country.