

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1089  
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2012  
AVAILABILITY OF POTASH  
Shekhawat Shri Gopal Singh

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

- (a) whether the availability of potash to the farmers has been affected due to decontrol of the same;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the shortage of potash fertilizers has been reported in the country;
- (d) if so, whether the consumption of potash has also receded during the last three years;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government 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); The requirement, availability and consumption (Sales) of Muriate of Potash (MOP) during last three years namely 2009-10 to 2011-12 are as under:

(Figures in Lakh metric tonnes (LMT))

Product-MOP	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Requirement	43.85	47.80	48.27
Availability	47.01	45.97	32.15
Sales	46.73	38.90	29.90

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. The availability as well as sales of MOP is on the lower side during the year 2011-12 compared to 2010-11 and 2009-10 because of cartelization by MOP traders. As a result of this, the MOP could not be contracted by importers till August, 2011. Subsequently, the contracting of MOP took place in the month of September, 2011. As a result of this, 32.15 lakh MT of MOP was made available during the year.