

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4898

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2013

ADULTERATION BLACKMARKETING OF FERTILIZERS

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

- (a) the mechanism for checking adulteration/black-marketing of fertilizers and dealing with the offenders;
- (b) the criteria of analyzing the fertilizer samples; and
- (c) the number of samples analyzed in various States during the last year? and
- (d) if so, the details thereof? ;

Answer

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

(a) : Fertilizers have been declared as essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955. In order to ensure adequate availability of good quality of fertilizers at reasonable price to the farmers, the Government of India under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act has promulgated the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO) 1985. FCO empowers the Government to regulate the quality of fertilizers. Under Clause 19 of FCO sale/manufacture of such fertilizers which are not of prescribed standard is strictly prohibited. The State Governments are adequately empowered to take appropriate action against the sale of non-standard fertilizers. Violation of provisions of FCO can invite panel action-including prosecution of offenders. The offender who is convicted may be awarded the sentence up to seven years imprisonment under ECA, besides cancellation of authorization letter. Under clause 6 of FCO, it is required that the dealer displays the stock position and price list of fertilizers at the premises.

Under Fertilizer Control Order, 1985, powers have been given to the State Governments for checking the quality and price of fertilizers at dealers and manufactures level. For this purpose, they have appointed the notified authorities and fertilizer Inspectors for issuance of Letter of authorization for sale of fertilizers and checking the quality of fertilizers. The State Governments have also established Fertilizers Quality Control Laboratories where the samples drawn by the Fertilizers inspectors are analyzed as per the prescribed methods. The action against offenders is taken by the State Governments in accordance with the Clause 28/31 of FCO and also under various sections of Essential Commodities Act 1955.

In addition to above, DOF has from time to time, written to the Chief Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs to activate the enforcement agencies under their jurisdiction to check diversion of subsidized fertilizers. Department of Fertilizers through weekly video conference with Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and representatives of State Government has been sensitizing and advising the State governments for keeping strict vigil and taking of prompt action by the state governments to check black marketing. These issues were highlighted during Zonal conference on Agriculture inputs for Kharif 2013 season held from 6th 8th February, 2013 and the National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign-2013 held from 6th to 7th March, 2013 wherein representatives from all the states were present.

(b): The samples are analyzed by the notified fertilizer testing laboratories in accordance with the method given under Schedule II, Part B of FCO.

(c)& (d): The statement showing the number of samples analyzed in various states during 2011-12 is Annexed.