

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1179
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2009
IMPORT OF SUB STANDARD UREA
Dhruvanarayana Shri R.

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

- (a) whether a cargo of urea imported by the Indian Potash Limited on behalf of the Government through Pipavav port in Gujarat has been found to be sub-standard;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the disputed cargo was earlier rejected by the Pakistan and later diverted to India from Karachi through forged shipping documents;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has ordered the vessel to be detained and quality check to be conducted by an independent team of officials; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. Samples of urea cargo in vessel MV Saint Peter imported through Indian Potash Limited (IPL) were drawn by the Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute (CFQ & TI), Faridabad during discharge operation of the vessel at Pipavav port which were found to be as per the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO) specifications.

(c) & (d) On the basis of complaint of urea being substandard and rejected by the Pakistan, an independent inspection team of the Government officials was deputed for further investigation. The team has observed that the pre arrival notification of security submitted by the Master of the vessel to the authorities at Pipavav port contains last 10 ports of call, and also shows that vessel was anchored at Gawader port in Pakistan from 22nd August 2009 to 16th September 2009. The case is still under examination in the Department.

(e) & (f) The vessel had completed discharge at Pipavav port and sailed out before the complaint was received. A team consisting of one officer each from Department of Fertilizers and CFQC & TI (Mumbai), Department of Agriculture & Cooperation was deputed to further investigate the matter. The team took samples from the urea discharged by MV Saint Peter and stored at Pipavav port. The analysis of second sample done in CFQC & TI, Mumbai also conformed to the FCO specifications. However, the laboratory report indicates that the sample does not conform to the particle size specifications provided in the Contract. Against the contractual requirement of 90% (80% under FCO) the particle size retained on 1 mm IS sieve is reported 84.15%. The supplier is liable to pay penalty for deficiency in particle size as per the contractual provisions.