

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:459

ANSWERED ON:06.08.2013

BLACKMARKETING OF FERTILIZERS

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

- (a) Whether the Government has taken note of the discontentment amongst farmers on account of large scale black-marketing, sub-standard, adulterated and unprecedented rise in the price of fertilizers;
- (b) If so, the reaction of the government thereto;
- (c) The number of such complaints received/cases registered by the Government regarding black-marketing of fertilizers in the country along with the action taken during each of the last three years and the current year, state/UT-wise;
- (d) The details of the demand, supply and availability/distribution of different fertilizers to farmers during the current crop season, State-wise/UT-wise;
- (e) The corrective action/steps taken by the Government to contain the rise in price and to check/curb black-marketing of fertilizers to protect the interests of farmers; and
- (f) The criteria of analyzing the fertilizer samples and the number of samples analysed in various States during the said period along with the action taken thereon?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) & (e) : There are some reports of alleged black-marketing, sub-standard and adulteration of fertilizers from some quarters. The distribution of fertilizers to the farmers within the State at fair price is the responsibility of the concerned state Government.

For Urea, the MRP in all the States, since 2003 was Rs. 4830/- per MT, which was increased to Rs. 5310/- per MT w. e. f. 1st April, 2010. With effect from 01st November, 2012, the price of urea is fixed at Rs. 5360 per tonne (exclusive of the central excise duty, central sales tax, countervailing duty, the sales tax and other local taxes wherever levied)

For P & K fertilizers, it has been made mandatory for the fertilizers companies (manufacturers /importers) of P&K fertilizer to submit certified cost data along with their subsidy claims to examine and ensure that the MRPs fixed by the companies are reasonable. While announcing subsidy rates for 2013-14, Government has also notified the indicative MRPs of P&K fertilizers and the amount to be reduced by the fertilizer companies from then prevailing prices, so as to check and ensure that the prices are fixed reasonably.

State Governments under the extant provisions of Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), 1985 are adequately empowered to take preventive/punitive actions against the offenders who indulge in activities of black marketing, sale of sub-standard and adulteration of fertilizers. Department of Fertilizers has also advised / sensitized the State Governments for gearing up enforcement agencies under their jurisdiction to prevent such alleged cases. 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 for taking of prompt action by the State Governments to check black marketing, sale of sub-standard and adulterated fertilizers etc.

(d): The details of the demand (requirement), supply and availability/distribution of fertilizers during the current crop season, State-wise/UT-wise; is annexed at I.

(f): The Fertilizer Inspectors are empowered to draw the samples on random basis, from the manufacturing units, dealers, godowns etc. Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute, Faridabad and its regional laboratories at Mumbai, Kalyani and Chennai are entrusted with the task of drawing the samples from imported sources. The institute draws the sample from almost all the Ships, undergoing unloading operation at various ports of the country. There are 74 fertilizer testing Laboratories in the country and samples are analyzed in these laboratories as per the procedure prescribed in Schedule II of FCO. The details of number of samples analyzed during 2009-10 to 2011-12 and action taken report are enclosed at annexure II and Annexure III respectively.