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Title: Need to evolve a comprehensive policy with a view to ensure adequate supply of fertilizers in the Country.

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUPPATTUR): Agriculture is the axis of our economy. Agriculture provides for food production as well as livelihood for the teeming millions. More than 80% of our population is dependent on Agriculture and agro-industries earning atleast one square meal a day. The farmers from Tamil Nadu carry on cultivation contentedly. But a problem has arisen now. There is an acute short-supply of agricultural inputs like urea, potash and complex. When there is an enormous demand for chemical fertilizers, farmers meet with huge disappointment due to non-availability of artificial manure as a result of mismatching production and distribution. When fertilizer units are being paid subsidy by the Government, it is incumbent on the part of the Government to probe the problem that belies the expectations of both the Government and the farmers. This problem highlights the need to evolve a Fertilizer policy co-coordinating with all the Ministries like Chemicals & Fertilizer Ministry, Ministry of Industries, Union Agriculture Ministry and also the Ministry of Finance. With a long term perspective a Fertilizer policy encouraging National manure and apportioning funds for research and promotion needs to be evolved by the Union Government. Since private industries and PSUs of the State Government are also involved in this, Government may have to hold wider discussions to use effectively both Chemical Fertilizers and National Manure.