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Title: Need to protect the interests of farmers under the new fertilizer policy.

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR (KARIMNAGAR): I would like to draw the kind attention of the august House regarding the new policy on fertilizers being considered by the Government.

At present, the Government is fixing the MRP rates of fertilizers and giving subsidies to the companies. Due to this, farmers are getting the fertilizers at the same rates even though different companies are manufacturing the same product. Despite facing the ups and downs in the market, the Government is giving the subsidies to the companies without changing the MRP. There should be a proper monitoring system to control the MRP rates to protect the interest of farmers.

But, there is an apprehension among the farmers of Andhra Pradesh that the Government is adopting a new policy on fertilizers. In the new policy, rates of urea will be increased to 10% and ultimately it will affect the farmers in Andhra Pradesh. The rates of complex fertilizers, potash, DAP will also be increased due to the implementation of nutrient based subsidy. This will also affect the budget of farmers. Fertilizers companies also sell their products where there is a heavy demand and neglect the remote areas. When the MRP rates are increased, the Government will automatically lose the control on fertilizer companies.

I, therefore, request the concerned Hon'ble Minister to intervene in the matter to ensure that the interest of farmers are protected with the adoption of the new policy on fertilizers.