

However, medical facilities under the Central Government Health Scheme have been extended to the Central Government pensioners in the cities where this scheme has been enforced viz. Delhi, Bombay, Allahabad and Meerut on payment of prescribed contribution

Rationalisation of Price of Chemical Fertiliser

**5225. SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH:
SHRI MAHADEEPAK SINGH
SHAKYA :**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any concrete proposal to rationalize the prices of chemical fertilisers by reducing the points of handling and distribution in view of a written request by a number of Members of Lok Sabha; and

(b) if so, the main feature thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P SHINDE) (a) and (b). Government appreciate the anxiety of the Hon'ble Member that the numbers of tiers in the distribution system as well as the cost of distribution should be reduced to the minimum possible. A two-tier distribution system obtains with the Fertiliser Corporation of India, the major public sector manufacturer of fertilisers. Government, however, have no proposal to lay down rigidly the number of tiers in the distribution channel, but would ensure that the total cost of distribution would not exceed the authorised margins.

In the cooperative distribution system which accounts for nearly half of the total fertilisers sold in the country, there is generally a three-tier distribution system as in Japan. The State Apex Marketing Society, however, cannot but accept the

responsibility for financing the distribution of fertilisers but passes on the consignment generally to the Block Level Society for stocking in advance of the season. Even though three-tiers may be involved, the total cost of distribution is not to exceed the normal margin and each tier is to keep a portion of the margin proportionate to the services rendered by it. However, the system is constituted differently in each State. The National Cooperative Development Corporation have set up an Expert Committee for studying and streamlining the cooperative distribution system in different States so that the farmers can get fertilisers at the minimum possible cost

The statutory maximum prices of fertilisers exclusive of taxes and duties in the last three years have remained stable; and in case of Urea and Ammonium Sulphate, Government have reduced the prices by Rs. 20 and Rs 100/- respectively per tonne. The National Commission on Agriculture have reported that the cost of distributing fertilisers including the cost of storages, transport etc, have increased. Every effort, however, will be made to hold down the consumer prices of fertilisers to the existing level.

Restoration of Normalcy in Universities

5256. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of fact that many Universities of the country are in turmoil on account of acute mal-administration with the result that the grants sanctioned by the University Grants Commission for their development are not being properly utilised; and

(b) if so, what measures the University Grants Commission propose to take or recommend to the State Governments con-