

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1785 TO BE ANSWERED ON: 19.12.2023

Sustainability of chemical and fertilizer industry

1785: DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE:

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

- (a) the manner in which Government has promoted environmental sustainability in the chemical and fertilizer industry; and
- (b) the measures taken to ensure the availability of affordable fertilizers to farmers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS

(SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA)

(a): Under the New Pricing Scheme (NPS-III) dated 8th March, 2007, Modified New Pricing Scheme dated 2nd April, 2014 and New Urea Policy (NUP) -2015 dated 25th May, 2015, the urea manufacturing units which were using Naphtha/FO-LSHS as feedstock to produce urea were encouraged to shift to cleaner fuel viz. Natural Gas, thereby reducing the carbon footprint due to production of urea. As a result, all such units have now converted to natural gas. Further, with introduction of NUP-2015, stringent energy norms (comparable to global standards) were given to urea manufacturing units to bring energy efficiency in production of urea.

Moreover, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting held on 28th June, 2023 has approved the "PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness Generation, Nourishment, and Amelioration of Mother-Earth (PM-PRANAM)". The initiative aims to complement the efforts initiated by States/UTs to save the health of Mother Earth by promoting sustainable and balanced use of fertilizers, adopting alternate fertilizers like nano/bio/organic fertilizers etc, promoting organic farming and implementing resource conservation technologies. Further, CCEA in its meeting held on 28th June, 2023 has approved the Market Development Assistance (MDA) @ Rs. 1500/MT to promote organic fertilizers.

For reducing the use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture, Government of India (GoI) is also promoting the balanced and judicious use of fertilizers based on soil test based recommendations in conjunction with organic fertilizer and bio-fertilizers. Further,

under organic schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Namami Gange, Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP), Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North- Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) etc., farmers are provided assistance for use of organic and bio-fertilizers. Further, National Centre for Organic Farming (NCOF) is involved in awareness generation & training activities for promotion of organic farming.

(b): Urea is provided to the farmers at a statutorily notified Maximum Retail Price (MRP). The MRP of 45 kg bag of urea is Rs.242 per bag (exclusive of charges towards neem coating and taxes as applicable). The difference between the delivered cost of urea at farm gate and net market realization by the urea units is given as subsidy to the urea manufacturer/importer by the Government of India. Besides, under Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy, a fixed amount of subsidy, decided on annual/semi-annual basis, is provided on notified P&K fertilizers, depending on their nutrient content. Under this policy, MRP is fixed by fertilizer companies as per market dynamics at reasonable level which is monitored by the Government. Accordingly, all farmers are being supplied fertilizers at the subsidized rates.
