

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 04.12.2009
ANSWERED ON
IMPORT OF SUB STANDARD UREA BY INDIAN POTASH LTD. .

1713

Shri B.K. Hariprasad

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

- (a) whether a ship-load of urea imported by State owned Indian Potash Ltd. through Pipavav Port in Gujarat has been found to be sub-standard;
- (b) whether the disputed cargo from Bandar Abbas in Iran was earlier rejected by Pakistan and later diverted to India through forged shipping documents;
- (c) whether Government had ordered the vessel to be detained and quality check to be conducted by an independent team of officials; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS

(SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a):No, Sir. Samples of urea cargo in vessel MV Saint Peter imported through Indian Potash Limited (IPL) were drawn by the Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute (CFQ & TI), Faridabad during discharge operation of the vessel at Pipavav port which were found to be as per the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO) specifications.

(b):On the basis of complaint of urea being sub-standard and rejected by the Pakistan, an independent inspection team of the Government officials was deputed for further investigation. The team has observed that the pre arrival notification of security submitted by the Master of the vessel to the authorities at Pipavav port contains last 10 ports of call, and also shows that vessel was sailed from Yuzhny and anchored at Gawader Port in Pakistan from 22nd August 2009 to 16th September 2009. There is no evidence on record that vessel was sailed from Bandar Abbas in Iran. The case is still under examination in the Department.

(c) & (d): The vessel had completed discharge at Pipavav port and sailed out before the complaint was received. A team consisting of one officer each from Department of Fertilizers and CFQC & TI (Mumbai), Department of Agriculture & Cooperation was deputed to further investigate the matter. The team took samples from the urea discharged by MV Saint Peter and stored at Pipavav port. The analysis of second sample done in CFQC & TI, Mumbai also conformed to the FCO specifications. However, the laboratory report indicates that the sample does not conform to the particle size specifications provided in the Contract. Against the contractual requirement of 90% (80% under FCO) the particle size retained on 1 mm IS sieve is reported 84.15%. The supplier is liable to pay penalty for deficiency in particle size as per the contractual provisions.