

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1457 TO BE ANSWERED ON: 14.03.2023

Fertilizer Production

1457: SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

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

- (a) the reasons as to why 22 per cent subsidy on fertilizers was cut in Union Budget 2023-24 as compared to the revised estimate of 2022-23;
- (b) the ways through which the Ministry plans to ensure flawless procurement and sufficient supply of fertilizers to farmers amid globally soaring prices and falling subsidy;
- (c) the reasons for shortage of DAP seen during peak winter sowing season across the country; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Ministry to check black-marketing and price gouging of fertilizers?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA)**

(a): The funds provided in Union Budget 2023-24 at Budget Estimate (BE) stage for fertilizer subsidy is more than the BE 2022-23. In case of any additional requirement for funds, Department of Fertilizers will approach Ministry of Finance at appropriate time.

(b): Following steps are taken by the Government every season to meet the adequate and timely requirement of fertilizers in the country;

- i. Before the commencement of each cropping season, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), in consultation with all the State Governments, assesses the state-wise & month-wise requirement of fertilizers.
- ii. On the basis of requirement projected, Department of Fertilizers allocates sufficient/ adequate quantities of fertilizers to States by issuing monthly supply plan and continuously monitors the availability.

- iii. The movement of all major subsidized fertilizers is monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system called integrated Fertilizer Monitoring System (iFMS);
- iv. The State Governments are regularly advised to coordinate with manufacturers and importers of fertilizers for streamlining the supplies through timely placement of indents for railway rakes through their state institutional agencies like Markfed etc.
- v. Regular Weekly Video Conference is conducted jointly by DA&FW and DoF with State Agriculture Officials and corrective actions are taken to dispatch fertilizer as indicated by the State Governments.
- vi. The gap between demand (requirement) and production for Urea & other fertilizer is met through imports. The import for the season is also finalized well in advance to ensure timely availability.

(c): The availability of DAP fertilizer have remained comfortable in the country during the ongoing Rabi 2022-23 season.

(d): Government of India has declared fertilizer as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and notified Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 and Fertilizer (Movement Control) Order, 1973. State Governments have been adequately empowered to ensure selling of fertilizers at MRP besides stopping black marketing/smuggling of fertilizers. State Governments are empowered to conduct search, make seizures and take punitive action against any person violating provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Fertilizer Control Order 1985. In addition to above, necessary directions are also issued time to time to State Governments to curb the hoarding/black-marketing of fertilizers.
