

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 513 TO BE ANSWERED ON : 07.02.2023

Problems of fertilizer availability and usage

513. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

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

- (a) the reasons for the alarmingly low per hectare application of mineral fertilizers in the country, when India is the largest importer and second largest producer and consumer of fertilizers;
- (b) the details of our fertilizers imports and subsidy for the last three years and the projections for the year;
- (c) the progress made in reviving five closed public sector urea production units;
- (d) the reasons for not considering closed units in West Bengal; and
- (e) the steps taken to improve local resources, such as beneficiation of domestic low-grade rock phosphate and popularizing gypsum from salt pans as manure?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS

(SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA)

(a) : Sir, Department of Fertilizers ensures the timely availability of fertilizers to the farmers at affordable prices. Consumption of fertilizers depends upon various factors like irrigated area, affordability of farmers, crop requirement etc. Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare assess the requirement of the fertilizers before season in consultation with State Governments, based on which monthly supply plan is issued by Department of fertilizers.

(b) : The details of our fertilizers (Urea, DAP, MOP & NPK) imports for the last three years and the current year (upto Dec'22) is given in the table below:

Quantity of Imported fertilizers (Urea, DAP, MOP and NPK) from 2019-20 to 2022-23 (upto Dec'22)				
<Qty in LMT>				
Year	Urea	DAP	MOP	NPK
		As reported by companies		
2019-20	91.23	48.70	36.70	7.46
2020-21	98.28	48.82	42.27	13.90
2021-22	91.36	54.62	24.60	11.70
2022-23 (upto Dec'22)	62.44	53.18	16.22	20.86

The expenditure incurred on the fertilizers subsidy in the last 3 years is as follows-

(Rs. in Crore)

S.No.	Financial Year	Expenditure on subsidy
1	2019-20	83,467.85
2	2020-21	1,31,229.50
3	2021-22	1,57,640.09

(c) & (d) : Sir, Government of India mandated revival of only Ramangundam, Gorakhpur, Sindri and Talcher units of Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCIL) and Barauni unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd (HFCL) through Joint Venture Company (JVC) of nominated PSUs for setting up new ammonia-urea plants of 12.7 LMTPA capacity each. The revival based upon assessment of the demand supply scenario in the country. The details of progress regarding these plants are as under: -

Sl No.	Name of the Plant	State	Urea Production Capacity (in LMTPA)	Date of Start
1	Ramagundam Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd (RFCL), Ramagundam,	Telangana	12.7	22.03.2021
2	Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL), Gorakhpur	Uttar Pradesh	12.7	07.12.2021
3	HURL, Sindri,	Jharkhand	12.7	05.11.2022
4	HURL, Barauni,	Bihar	12.7	18.10.2022
5	Talcher Fertilizers Ltd, Talcher	Odisha	12.7	Sept, 2024

(e) : Sir, Government has given permission to few companies, viz. (i) M/s. Madhya Bharat Agro Products Ltd.; (ii) M/s. Krishna Phoschem Ltd.; (iii) M/s. A.P. India Pvt. Ltd.; and (iv) M/s. Patel Phoschem Ltd., to beneficiate domestic low grade rock phosphate sourced from Rajasthan State Mines and Minerals Ltd. (RSMML) and accordingly use it to manufacture Single Super Phosphate (SSP) fertilizer as per FCO standard. The gypsum obtained from salt pan is known as marine Gypsum. The experiment conducted on the use of Marine Gypsum for reclamation of sodic revealed positive and significant effect (reducing soil pH, Exchangeable Sodim Percentage) as compared to mineral Gypsum.
