

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1950 TO BE ANSWERED ON: 10.03.2026

Industrial safety upgradation in fertilizer plants

1950 DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

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

(a) whether Government proposes to direct fertilizer manufacturing units to replace obsolete vessels, machinery and process equipment to strengthen public safety, given that such plants handle hazardous chemicals and are situated near densely populated areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including prescribed timelines for compliance and applicable statutory safety standards;

(c) whether the fixed cost policy has been revised to incorporate updated fixed cost norms covering mandatory safety up-gradation;

(d) the present status of fixed cost matters pending since 2014, the steps taken for their resolution; and

(e) whether periodic third-party safety audits and incentives for technology up gradation are under consideration?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS

(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) (b) & (e): The safety and security of urea manufacturing units do not fall directly under the purview of the Department of Fertilizers. However, in order to promote safe operations, the Department has developed a model safety protocol checklist, which is being obtained from urea units on a monthly basis for review and monitoring. Routine health checkup of Ammonia systems including storage tanks, adoption of safety in design of Ammonia storage and handling during transportation, disaster management training of employees, emergency response planning are some of the major aspects covered in these reports.

For SSP units, Department of Fertilizers conducts technical audit and inspection of SSP manufacturing units through approved agencies. These audits assess plant capability, production norms, raw material use, and compliance with Fertilizers (Control) Order standards. But a specific policy providing incentives for technology up-gradation or dedicated third-party safety audits for SSP units is not clearly notified as a separate national scheme.

(c) & (d): As per the observation of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) that the issues related to the costing of Urea units may be referred to Chief Advisor (Cost) in the Ministry of Finance for examination and recommendations, the Department of Fertilizers requested Department of Expenditure that the Chief Advisor (Cost) may examine and give recommendations on revision of fixed cost of Urea manufacturing Units along with reinstating the provisions of the minimum fixed cost of Rs. 2300/MT under the Modified NPS-III with retrospective effect i.e. from 2nd April 2014. Report of the Chief Advisor (Cost) has been received in the Department, which is currently under examination.
