

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2235 TO BE ANSWERED ON: 31.07.2018

Modernization of Rake Points

2235 SHRI BALABHADRA MAJHI:

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

- (a) whether due to non-availability of required infrastructure at existing rake points and provision of new rake point and two points rakes, supply of fertilizers and its distribution is affected a lot and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the State Government of Odisha is forced to assist Dealer with handling charges amounting to 5.00 crores annually for ensuring smooth distribution of different fertilizers and their sale at right price to farmers;
- (c) whether the Ministry of Railways and Central Government has taken some steps for modernization of existing rake points, notification of new rake points and provision of two points rakes at proposed places; and
- (d) whether the Ministry has taken necessary steps for supply of balance allocation of Urea along with other fertilizers during peak season?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a): No, Madam. There is no report from any State regarding non-availability of fertilizers due to infrastructural issues. The supply and distribution of fertilizers has not been hampered on account of lack of required infrastructure and provision for two-point rakes.

(b): Department of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) in consultation with States/ UTs assesses the requirement of all subsidized fertilizers before the start of each Season. Department of Fertilizers ensures availability of fertilizers at the State level. Further, fertilizers are transported across the country from ports/plants through rail/ roads and the freight charges are borne by Government of India. With the existing arrangements availability of fertilizers has been adequate in the country including Odisha. Further, there is no report regarding Odisha is forced to assist Dealer with handling charges amounting to 5.00 crores annually for ensuring smooth distribution of different fertilizers and their sale at right price to farmers.

(c): Infrastructure at any rake point is provided as per quantum of traffic handled at that terminal. Improvement of existing rake points, notification of new rake points and provision of two points rake is a need based ongoing continuous process of Indian Railways. In the last two years, 20 works of rake points improvement have been sanctioned. In addition, a new liberalized mini rake and two points loading policy for covered rakes has been introduced in 2016-17.

(d): Following steps are being taken by the Government to monitor and to ensure adequate and timely availability of Urea along with other fertilizers to the farmers:-

1. The month-wise demand is assessed and projected by the Department of Agriculture & Co-operation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) in consultation with the State Governments before commencement of each cropping season.
2. On the basis of month-wise & state-wise projection given by DAC&FW, Department of Fertilizers allocates sufficient/ adequate quantities of fertilizers to States by issuing monthly supply plan and continuously monitors the availability through following system: -
 - a. The movement of all major subsidized fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system (www.urvarak.co.in) also called as Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS);
 - b. 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.
 - c. Regular Weekly Video Conference is conducted jointly by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Department of Fertilizers (DoF), and Ministry of Railways with State Agriculture Officials and corrective actions are taken to dispatch fertilizer as indicated by the State Governments.
 - d. The gap between demand (requirement) and production is met through import.
