

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *214 TO BE ANSWERED ON: 09.03.2021

Smuggling of Urea

*214 SHRI M. SELVARAJ:
DR. A. CHALLAKUMAR:

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

- (a) whether Urea and other fertilizers are allegedly being diverted and smuggled to neighbouring countries;
- (b) if so, the country-wise details thereof including the cases of smuggling of fertilizers registered during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO PART (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 214* FOR 09.03.2021 REGARDING "SMUGGLING OF UREA" TABLED BY SHRI M. SELVARAJ AND DR. A. CHALLAKUMAR

(a): 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 atMRPbesides 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.

With regard to diversion and smuggling of Urea to neighbouring countries, as per the information provided by the states sharing the international borders with India, no such incidents have been reported. However, Bihar Government has reported that there are cases of pilferage by local people carrying fertilizer on cycle or head loads etc.

(b): Question does not arise.

(c): State Governments are adequately empowered to conduct search, make seizures and take punitive action against any person violating the provisions Essential Commodities Act, 1955and Fertilizer Control Order 1985. However, The Department has time and again requested Ministry of Home Affairs (Border Management) to increase check and vigilance at the borders to prevent any diversion of Urea to neighbouring countries. In this regard Ministry of Home Affairs has requested to the various states (bordering Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar) and security forces viz. Border Security Force, Sashastra Seema Bal and Assam Rifles to increase vigilance at the borders to prevent smuggling of Urea from India to neighbouring countries.
