

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2055 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2024

SUBSIDIES FOR FARMERS IN BACKWARD AREAS

2055: SMT. MALVIKA DEVI:

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

- (a) the details of the schemes and subsidies which are given to the farmers in backward areas of the country;
- (b) the methods being used to make sure that the farmers who are illiterate are informed well in time about the fertilizer subsidies and schemes in the country; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check black marketing and ensure strict action is taken against people involved in black marketing of fertilizers in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) & (b): The schemes under which subsidies are given to farmers are Indigenous P&K, Imported P&K, Indigenous Urea, and Imported Urea. Further, the Government has approved the Market Development Assistance (MDA) @ Rs. 1500/MT to promote organic fertilizers.

Under 'DBT in Fertilizers' system, 100% subsidy on various fertilizer grades is released to the fertilizer companies, on actual sales to the beneficiaries based on Aadhar authentication through POS devices installed at each retail shop. Accordingly, all farmers across the country (including farmers in backward areas) buying fertilizers from 3.33 lakh fertilizer retail shops get the benefit of subsidy. Fertilizer buyers receive SMS on aadhar linked mobile number containing amount of subsidy provided by the Government of India on each purchase of subsidized fertilizers. A multilingual call centre service is being provided under 'DBT in Fertilizers' where farmers can raise their queries related to 'fertilizers'.

Department of Fertilizers (DoF), vide notification dated 24th August, 2022, has decided to convert the existing village, block/sub district/taluk and district level fertilizer retail shops into Model Fertilizer Retail Shops, namely Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendra (PMKSK). More than 2.15 lakh retail fertilizer shops have been converted into PM KSK across the country. These PMKSKs act as a one-stop-shop for wide variety of needs of the farmers like provision of agri-inputs like seeds, fertilizers & pesticides; testing facilities for soil & seeds; information regarding market prices of agri-inputs & various government schemes; and ensure regular capacity building of retailers. Moreover, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) was launched on November 15, 2023 to create awareness and provide the benefits of flagship government schemes, with a particular focus on the agricultural sector.

(c): Fertilizer is declared as an essential commodity and is notified under Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 and Fertilizer (Movement Control) Order, 1973. State Governments are adequately empowered under FCO to stop diversion of fertilizers for non-agriculture purposes and to take punitive action against any person/fertilizer company involved in black marketing/smuggling/diversion of fertilizers violating the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Fertilizer Control Order 1985 (FCO).

Any complaint received at Department of Fertilizer level regarding diversion of urea is sent to the concerned State Government, to take appropriate action under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Fertilizer Control Order, 1985.

In addition, the Fertilizer Flying Squad of Department of Fertilizers also carries out joint inspections along with the States and appropriate action is initiated by States from time to time against urea diversion cases.
