

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2121 TO BE ANSWERED ON: 12.12.2025

OVERCHARGING AND FORCED TAGGING OF FERTILIZERS

2121: SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of complaints, regarding shortage of DAP, alleged overcharging up to Rs. 1,900 per 50-kg bag against the fixed price of Rs. 1,350 from farmers in Punjab, particularly in Sangrur and neighbouring districts, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the instances of dealers forcing farmers to buy other fertilizers along with DAP, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any action has been initiated against any dealer or agency found involved in overpricing or "tagging", if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any audit or review of the DAP supply chain in Punjab has been ordered to ensure transparent and adequate distribution, if so, the findings thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes additional measures to prevent such malpractice, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS

(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

- (a) The availability of DAP in the State of Punjab has remained adequate during the ongoing Rabi 2025-26 season. From 01.04.2025 to 08.12.2025, 4,55,000 Metric Tons of DAP has been made available in the State against the pro-rata requirement of 4,05,000 Metric Tons. The sales during the said period has been 2,98,000 Metric Tons and the State holds closing stock 1,57,000 Metric Tons of DAP. Further, the mandate of the D/o Fertilizers is to ensure adequate availability of fertilizers at State level. However, the assessment and distribution of fertilizers within the State at district level is done by the concerned State government. Accordingly, State government of Punjab has informed that they ensure that DAP and other fertilizers are made available to the farmers according to their demand at their fixed prices. The complaints regarding the same are resolved by them as soon as possible.

(b) to (e) Fertilizers are declared as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and notified under Fertilizer Control Order, 1985. **State Governments are empowered to take action against persons involved in black-marketing/ overpricing, as per provisions of EC Act. Any complaints received at Department of Fertilizers level regarding black marketing/over-pricing of fertilizers is sent to concerned State Government to take appropriate action** under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Fertilizer Control Order, 1985.

Accordingly, as informed by the State government of Punjab, during the FY 2025-26, 04 FIR's have been registered and 03 Letter of Authorizations have been cancelled as an enforcement action against the dealers/agencies found involved in overpricing/hoarding/tagging.

Further, tagging/linking of other products with DAP and other fertilizers is not encouraged by Department of Fertilizers. In this regard, D.O. letters are regularly written to State Governments requesting them to take strict action as per extant rules to prevent tagging. Besides, suitable directions are issued to fertilizer companies directing them not to indulge in such practices.

Moreover, following steps are taken by the Government every season for ensuring timely and adequate availability of fertilizers in the country, including the State of Punjab:

- (i) Before the commencement of each cropping season, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), in consultation with all the State Governments, assesses the State-wise & month-wise requirement of fertilizers.
- (ii) On the basis of requirement projected by DA&FW, D/o Fertilizers allocates adequate quantities of fertilizers to States by issuing monthly supply plan and continuously monitors the availability.
- (iii) The movement of all major subsidized fertilizers is monitored throughout the country by an on-line web-based monitoring system called Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS).
- (iv) The State Governments are regularly advised to coordinate with manufacturers and importers for streamlining the supplies through timely placement of indents.
- (v) Regular Weekly Video Conference is conducted jointly by DA&FW and D/o Fertilizers with State Agriculture Officials and corrective actions are taken to dispatch fertilizer as indicated by the State Governments.
