

*[English]***Purchase of Fertilizer Plants Abroad**

3091. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending with the Union Government regarding purchase of a fertilizer plant abroad;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the details of other suggestions being considered to increase the production of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Government has approved KRIBHCO's proposal for initiating the 'Due Diligence Process' (preparation of the Detailed Feasibility Report) for acquiring equity stakes in phosphatic fertilizer plant(s) in USA/Russia. One plant in USA and two plants in Russia have been shortlisted for this exercise.

(c) Due to constraints in the availability of natural gas in the country, fertilizer companies are being encouraged to explore possibilities of setting up ammonia/urea plants in the countries where gas is available in abundance at relatively cheap rates. This will ensure supplies of urea to India and would help in reducing the gap between demand and supply. Besides, a number of projects are currently under implementation within the country.

Steel Prices

3092. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the prices of one tonne of steel of different categories that is being sold by Visakhapatnam Steel Plant; and

(b) the comparative sale price of similar category of steel being marketed by TISCO, Hindustan Steel and Steel Authority of India Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). The comparative Ex-works sale prices of similar categories of steel being marketed by Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Steel Authority of India Limited and Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited are given below:

S.No.	Category	VSP Ex-works Price (Rs./Tonne)	SAIL Ex-works Price (Rs./Tonne)	TISCO Ex-works Price (Rs./Tonne)
1.	Billets 125 mm	10,180	9,788	9,420
2.	Wire Rods 8 mm	12,240	11,570	—
	7 mm	12,380	—	12,452
	5.5 mm	12,980	—	12,797
3.	Rounds 18 to 25 mm	11,180	11,225	11,187
4.	Tor Steel 18 to 25 mm	11,850	11,915	11,855
5.	Angles			
	(a) 65x65x6	11,670	11,513	11,877
	(b) 100x100x8/10	12,710	12,893	—
6.	Channels			
	(a) 75x40/100x50	11,560/11,460	11,628	11,747
	(b) 150x75	13,180	13,353	13,265
7.	Beams			
	(a) 125x70	—	12,318	12,897
	(b) 150x75	—	13,870	13,323