

Regarding problems being faced by farmers due to shortage of Urea in the country-Laid

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Indian farmers face severe hardships from urea shortages, leading to long queues, black marketing, overcharging, and distress during peak sowing seasons, threatening crop yields and food security, as demand outstrips subsidized supply, compounded by logistical issues, global price volatility, and dealer practices, forcing farmers to choose between crop failure and financial loss, despite Government efforts and promotion of alternatives like nano urea. Farmers, including women, queue from early morning or even overnight to get limited urea bags. There is no stringent efforts to check artificial scarcity & black marketing, dealers allegedly hoard stock, creating shortages, and sell above the subsidized MRP, sometimes forcing purchase of other products. Financial strain, farmers pay exorbitant rates in the black market (up to 10x MRP in some areas) or face crop loss, while dealers struggle with delayed subsidy reimbursements. Delayed fertilizer application stunts root growth and reduces yields, especially for Kharif crops, impacting food security and rural incomes. Global factors like dependence on imports exposes India to price shocks and geopolitical issues. In essence, the urea shortage creates a crisis where farmers are caught between agricultural failure and financial ruin, highlighting deep-seated issues in India's fertilizer sector. Government should intervene for immediate redressal farmers plights.