

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:75  
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2003  
IMPORT OF UREA  
BASUDEB ACHARIA

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

- (a) whether the Union Government have decided to import urea to bridge the gap between supply and demand in the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the urea producing units in the country are unable to meet the increasing demand of urea;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have taken steps to make our country self-sufficient in Urea production to meet the increasing demand of urea;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether the Union Government have explored any possibility to use alternative cost-effective feedstock for urea production;
- (h) if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHHATTRA PAL SINGH)

(a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) & (d) No Sir, the country has achieved near self-sufficiency in the production of capacity of urea. Since, 2000-2001 urea is not being imported for agricultural purposes. Only, in the year 2001-02, 2.2 lakh MT urea constituting 1.15% of domestic production was imported to supplement pipeline stocks for sale to farmers.

(e) & (f): Yes Sir, to meet the higher demand of urea in the coming years revamp of BVFCL at Namrup is under way, which would increase its operational capacity by 3.15 lakh MT. A joint venture between Indian Cooperatives, namely, IFFCO and KRIBHCO and Oman Oil Company in Oman has been set up, from which 16.5 lakh MT of urea would become available to India after commissioning of its project in June/July, 2005. Besides KRIBHCO, a multi-state cooperative under the administrative control of Department of Fertilizers, is actively considering to set up a new ammonia urea plant with annual capacity of 10.56 lakh MT at Hazira. With these projects the country would remain near self-sufficient in urea throughout the remaining 10th Plan period.

(g) to (i): Yes Sir, natural gas (NG)/ liquefied natural gas (LNG), not only being the preferred feedstock for the manufacture of urea is also a clean, efficient and cost effective source of energy. Plans are, therefore, afoot for facilitating the switchover of the existing non-gas based urea units to NG/LNG for feedstock/fuel. This is expected to result in substantial savings in the subsidy on account of cost of feedstock and resultant energy savings. However, conversion of non-gas based urea units will depend on the additional availability of NG through new gas fields and imported LNG and the delivered price of NG/LNG.