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Title: Need to take immediate steps to ensure easy and adequate availability of Muriate of Potash and DAP Fertilizers to the farmers in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Madam, One of the major fertilizers being used by the farmers in the whole country particularly in Tamil Nadu is Muriate of Potash(MOP) and that is in acute shortage and for the last two months, the stock is almost Nil. The situation has arisen because of the current import policy. The major importer is government owned, Indian Potash Limited which is importing and distributing. One of the reasons for acute shortage during the year is higher international market price for MOP which is hiked by about 2-1/2 times in comparison with previous year. Government is hesitant to import MOP because of its higher cost and consequent subsidy burden and aimed at reducing subsidy on imported fertilizer. Since MOP is the major imported fertilizer and farmers are mostly using this fertilizer in Tamil Nadu for all crops and due to the extant policy, the farmers are getting inadequate supply. Even if the Government thinks of importing more quantity of MOP, it will take few days for shipment period. If this situation continues, the farmers will suffer and it will affect crop production.

Another major fertilizer widely used in Tamil Nadu is Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP) which is also in short supply. In Tamil Nadu, for all crops, the major basal application period is August and September.

I, shall, therefore, humbly urge upon the Union Government to take immediate steps to ensure easy and adequate availability of MOP-DAP fertilizers to the farmers in Tamil Nadu at reasonable prices without delay.