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Title: Need to control the prices of fertilizers in the country and to ensure its availability to the farmers at reasonable price.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (VIZIANAGARAM): Our UPA Government has allowed the fertilizer manufacturing companies to fix the price of urea, potash and phosphate- based fertilizers. At the same time, the Government had promised to extend a fixed amount of subsidy as assistance to farmers. Urea constitutes almost 50% of the country's fertilizer consumption.

To quote certain facts, the urea produced by Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd., (FACT) Kochi, costs Rs.5,540 per tonne. After decontrol of prices, it would cost Rs.17,540 per tonne. The price of factum fos is Rs.8,420 per tonne, which will go up to Rs.20,755 per tonne. Similar is the case with M.O.P., 20:20, 10:26:26, DAP and super phosphate.

Thus, the high prices would lead to sharp reduction in consumption of said fertilizers and in turn steeply increase the cost of foodgrain production.

Any reduction in the use of steel, cement, automobiles etc. for a couple of years will not have that much effect, but the substantial decline in the consumption of the fertilizers will have greater effect on the foodgrain production which can play havoc with the lives of the people.

I request the Government to consider once again to control the prices of all types of fertilizers in the interest of farmers and make them available to the farmers at reasonable price, place and time.