Increase in price of urea

1594. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to increase the price of Urea across the country;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
 - (c) the details of urea price increased during the last three years;
- (d) whether increase in Urea price will further escalate the food inflation in the country; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Formulation of policy for existing urea units beyond Stage-Ill of New Pricing Scheme is under consideration of Government of India.

- (c) The MRP of urea in all the States, since 2003 was Rs. 4830/- PMT. The MRP of urea was increased to Rs. 5310/-PMT w.e.f. 1st April 2010. The MRP fixed is exclusive of CST, Sales Tax and Central Excise Duty. With effect from 1st November 2012, the MRP of urea has been increased to Rs. 5360/-PMT (exclusive of the central excise duty, central sales tax, countervailing duty, the sales tax and local taxes wherever levied, whether at the retail sales point or at an intermediate stages.
- (d) and (e) No, Sir. The urea is sold to farmers at subsidized rates/fixed MRP given above.

Loss of subscribers of BSNL due to MNP

1595. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that BSNL is facing losses due to the inception of Mobile Number Portability (MNP), as customers are switching to other service providers;
- (b) if so, the total number of customers switching from BSNL to other service providers and the major reasons therefor; and
 - (c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILLIND DEORA): (a) to (c) Till 31.10.2012, a net total of 789846 mobile subscribers have ported out of BSNL to other service providers due to mobile number portability which is less than 1% of total mobile subscribers of BSNL.

Main reasons for porting out of BSNL are as follows:

- Network coverage related issues.
- Aggressive marketing by private operators where they are giving more incentives to sales channels for pulling customers from other operators.