



Fertilizer Control Order a Boon to Farmers

Rishikesh Yadav, Robin Kumar, Abhishek Maurya and Sudheer Kumar Yadav

Department of soil science and agricultural chemistry
ANDUA&T Kumarganj, Ayodhya-224229

Email: rishiy156@gmail.com

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Introduction

After the First Green Revolution in the 1960s, India established itself as one of the leading food producers before the world and became self-sufficient in grain production. Various factors contributed to this success story including various seeds with high yields, increase in irrigation facilities and high use of inputs such as fertilizers. Realizing the importance of fertilizers in increasing productivity, the Government of India made several efforts to increase its use. Some of the key aspects included the introduction of retention price

subsidy scheme (RPS) in 1977 to allow fertilizer manufacturers to set up industries keeping in mind the interest of farmers and to provide fertilizers to farmers without de-licensing of fertilizer industry. Under which permission was given to set up fertilizer industry without obtaining permission from the government after getting environmental clearance. These efforts increased the consumption of fertilizers from 0.7 lakh metric tonnes in 1950-1951 to **42 million metric tonnes** in 2008-2009.

FCO (1957) & Fertilizer Quality

Fertilizer is the most important and expensive input to sustain agricultural production and ensure food security in the country. Fertilizer Control Order (FCO) enacted under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 of fertilizers in the country implemented to control trade, price, quality and distribution. The state government is the enforcement agencies for implementation of the provisions of the FCO and is adequately competent to take action against those who are not facing non-standard norms involved in the production and sale of counterfeit fertilizers. FCO provides mandatory registration to fertilizer manufacturers, importers and dealers, manufacturer in the country. Special details of all fertilizers imported and sold, regulation on manufacture of fertilizer blends, packing and marking of fertilizer bags, appointment of enforcement agencies, setting up of quality laboratory, non-standard laboratory. Fake Prohibition on sale of complex fertilizers. A major role is played by fertilizer inspectors appointed by the Central and State Governments in this Who take random samples of fertilizers and send them to laboratories for testing. Accordingly, 71 Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories were set up in the country, including a Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute, Faridabad and its three related Regional Laboratories established by the Central Government.

The issue of quality control of fertilizers has always been a matter of concern with policy makers, in fact the first step was taken decades ago when fertilizer was declared as an essential commodity in 1957. As mentioned, more specific steps were taken

by interpolating the FCO under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act (1955) to control the trade, price, quality and distribution of fertilizer in the country The main provisions of the FCO are mandatory registration of all fertilizer manufacturers, importers and dealers, specification of indigenously manufactured fertilizers and materials imported from other countries, appointment of Enforcement Agencies, setting up of quality control laboratories to test fertilizer samples extracted from dealers, Non-Standard fake manufacture of complex fertilizers Restrictions on import and sale.

Fertilizers Control Order (FCO) is an adjunct to the Essential Commodities Act 1955. Most regimes have been dismantled since 1991 with regard to industry. The penalty prescribed under Section 7 of 1955 is summarized below-

- Imprisonment ranging from 3 months to 7 years can be ordered with fine under Section 7(i)(a)(ii) Any false information is punishable with imprisonment of 5 years
- Fertilizer stock and its collection can also be seized under Section 7(i)(a)(ii)
- FCO offences under Section 10(A) are treated as cognizable and non-bailable offences
- All offences should be heard only by the Courts of First-Class Magistrate and may attract imprisonment of up to 2 years with fine.
- Dealers' authorization dealer can be cancelled or rejected under Section 31 of the FCO, and no new authorization can be issued to the dealer within one year of cancellation of their

authorization letter, the fresh authorization cannot be issued for 3 years if the dealer has been convicted by the court.

- It is mandatory to receive the outstanding amount as 'land revenue arrears which in turn are dependent on

ancient and extremely stringent provisions including non-bailable imprisonment.

FERTILIZER CONTROL ORDER(1985)

CONFERRED BY SECTION 3 OF THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT, 1955

Fertilizer Association of India

Fertilizer association of India is a non-profit organization regulating and representing fertilizer distributor, importers and research institutes and supplier of the fertilizer inputs. This association was established in the year 1955 with certain objective regarding fertilizer production and its uses. The sole objective of this organization is to provide security through

balance and efficient use of plant nutrients. It's have nearly 779 active member in support which is overcoming the challenges faced by the industry. The prime objective of FAI is to assist the industry in improving it's operational efficiency, encouraging farmers regarding balance use of fertilizer and promoting sound agricultural practices.

Revised fertilizer control order (25 September 1985)

