QUESTIONNAIRE ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN THE FERTILISER INDUSTRY

1. Will the application of mineral fertilisers and the concept of sustainable agriculture go hand in hand to meet our growing demand of food grains? What will happen if we do away with it?

2. What is your considered view on the future of the Chemical Fertiliser Industry all over the world and also in India? Will the environmental impacts of the manufacturing processes put constraints on its further expansion and building up of new capacities?

3. How does factors such as depletion of natural resources, excessive demand for water, energy etc., affect the growth of the industry?

4. How far considerations such as safety of the public and other environmental issues relating to huge size fertiliser plants act as constraints in limiting fertiliser production?

5. With the technological advancement of the present day plants producing fertilisers, efficiency of effluent and emission control, waste disposal and overall safety of the installations have considerably improved. Do you think this is a well balanced development?

6. With the kind of pollution abatement and environmental controls as available today in the industry is it possible to reduce adverse impacts to a reasonably acceptable level? Do you consider further improvement essential for continued growth?

7. Assessing the growth of the industry for the past 30-40 years, do you agree that the industry is making consistent efforts to contain the adverse environmental impacts and there has been many success stories also?
8. Do you foresee developments in biotechnology and bio-fertilisers as a challenge for the mineral fertiliser industry from the environmental angle?

9. Quite different from the earlier technologies available for production, now-a-days welcome changes such as attempts to reduce the harshness of the chemical reactions, use of improved metallurgy, operation at lower temperatures and pressures, reduction in storage of toxic inventories, going for less toxic materials as substitutes etc., have become very common in the manufacturing sector. In your opinion how far these developments add on to the environment friendliness of the industry?

10. How far the Indian fertiliser industry been successful in achieving the environmental standards compared to those in North America or Europe?

11. How about the role of environmental regulatory authorities in the country? How far legislation in this area has been successful?

12. All the fertiliser production units in the country are now-a-days equipped with Emergency Management Plans to tackle onsite crisis situations. Do you consider these plans as foolproof and workable when in demand?

13. Though most of the effluents from fertiliser plants are safely treated and let out, problems such as hazards from plants and storages, disposal of phosphogypsum, spent catalysts and toxic metal bearing sludge, radioactivity, disposal of old plants, global warming and ozone depletion etc., continue to worry the industry. How far, in your opinion, these issues will be resolved in the future?

14. To what extent integration of Indian fertiliser industry with that of the global industry have taken place?

15. What in your opinion are the key elements from the environmental point of view to be addressed while formulating a national level fertiliser policy?