

## **“REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FERTILIZERS”\***

### **—A REVIEW**

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THIS COMMITTEE appointed by the Government of India in October 1964, submitted its report in September 1965. In its report the Committee has presented certain estimates of fertilizer production, consumption in the context of the fourth plan, and credit needed by different agencies and farmers for requisite use of fertilizers, and recommended substantial changes in the marketing and distribution of available fertilizers during the period of the fourth plan. As such the report has considerable importance and merits close examination.

In its terms of reference the Committee was asked (i) to consider short-term and long-term problems connected with distribution of fertilizers at different levels and to recommend measures for an effective system of distribution; (ii) to study the existing pricing-policy and suggest modifications; (iii) to study the role of distribution agencies and their margins; (iv) to study the role of extension services in promotion and popularization of fertilizer-use and suggest measures; and (v) to study the role of producing units in marketing and promotional activities. The tasks set before the Committee were quite far-reaching and complex.

Before going on to the critical examination of the content of the Report and the manner in which the Committee has presented it, it may be worthwhile mentioning here its more important recommendations. (1) The Committee has recommended the continuance of the existing fertilizer pool whereby imported and indigenous fertilizers are sold at common price. (2) The Committee disapproved the existing practice of differential prices whereby plantations were supplied fertilizers at higher prices; the committee recommended uniformity in prices charged to plantations and other consumers. (3) The Committee found the prevalent distribution-margins to be inadequate and has proposed higher margins in the case of all varieties of fertilizers. (4) Finding the performance of co-operatives in distribution to have

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