

# Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu



**CHEMICALS & FERTILIZER POLICY REFORMER | FORMER UNION MINISTER FOR CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS | INDUSTRIAL & AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY-CHAIN STRATEGIST**

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Former Union Cabinet Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers who led key reforms to strengthen India's fertilizer security, pharmaceutical affordability, chemical safety, and petrochemical self-reliance. Known for aligning industrial policy with farmer welfare, public health, environmental compliance, and long-term national supply-chain resilience.

## MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP – CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS

- Union Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India (1999–2000)
- Cabinet-level responsibility for fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and petrochemicals.

## KEY REFORMS & IMPACT

### Fertilizer Policy & National Food Security

- Instrumental in preparing a long-term Fertilizer Policy to:
  - Ensure stable and affordable fertilizer availability for farmers
  - Provide predictability and viability to the fertilizer industry
- Focused on balancing farmer affordability, fiscal sustainability, and industrial capacity.

### Strategic Fertilizer Security

- Initiated international joint ventures with potash-rich countries, addressing
- India's structural dependence on imports.
- Strengthened long-term access to critical raw materials for fertilizers.
- Positioned fertilizer availability as a strategic national concern, not merely a subsidy issue.

### Pharmaceutical Policy & Access to Medicines

- Played a central role in formulating a new Drug Policy with objectives to:
  - Encourage competition in the pharmaceutical sector
  - Ensure adequate availability of essential medicines
  - Maintain affordability for the public
- Proposed raising the automatic FDI approval limit in pharmaceuticals from 51% to 74%, encouraging global investment while strengthening domestic manufacturing.

### Chemical Safety & Global Compliance

- Prepared and introduced a Bill on the Chemical Weapons Convention, aligning India's chemical sector with international safety and non-proliferation norms.
- Strengthened regulatory oversight and compliance across chemical manufacturing and handling.

### Environment-Friendly Chemical Manufacturing

- Established environment-friendly Chemical Estates to:
  - Promote cluster-based chemical manufacturing
  - Improve safety, waste management, and environmental compliance
  - Reduce risks associated with dispersed chemical units
- Integrated environmental safeguards into industrial planning rather than post-fact regulation.

### Petrochemical Infrastructure & Self-Reliance

- Played a proactive role in the early commissioning of key petrochemical infrastructure.
- Strengthened domestic capacity in petrochemicals to reduce import dependence.
- Supported downstream industries reliant on petrochemical inputs.

## INSTITUTIONAL & POLICY LEGACY

- Strengthened India's fertilizer and chemical supply chains with a long-term strategic lens.
- Improved access to affordable medicines while encouraging sectoral competitiveness.
- Embedded global safety norms and environmental responsibility into chemical sector governance.
- Positioned chemicals and fertilizers as core enablers of agriculture, health, and industrial growth.