

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 666
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25/07/2025

STEPS TO ADDRESS OVERUSE OF UREA

666. Dr. BHAGWAT KARAD

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that over 60 percent of cultivable land in Maharashtra has low organic carbon and nearly 70 percent of farmers overuse urea, causing nutrient imbalance, if so, the corrective steps being taken to address the same;
- (b) the measures in place to promote balanced fertiliser use and effective implementation of Soil Health Card (SHC) recommendations; and
- (c) whether delays or irregularities in fertiliser supply, including black marketing, have been reported during the Kharif season, if so, the action taken to address such issues?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): The Government is aware that over 60% of cultivable land in Maharashtra has low organic carbon. The Government is implementing Soil Health and Fertility Scheme since 2014-15 in the country including the State of Maharashtra where Soil Health Cards is issued to farmer after testing of soil from the farmer's field for the purpose of promoting judicious use of fertilizers. SHC gives status of the soil with respect to pH, electrical conductivity, available Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Sulphur, micro-nutrients (Zinc, Copper, Iron, Manganese & Boron) including Organic Carbon in the soil and advisories are given to the farmers on integrated nutrient management.

The Government is promoting balanced use of fertilisers through Soil Health & Fertility Scheme in the country. The scheme also guides farmers on judicious use of chemical

fertilizers including micro nutrients along with organic manures & bio-fertilizers for improving soil organic carbon and soil health in the country. Under the Soil Health & Fertility Scheme, 25.13 crore Soil Health Cards have been issued in the country till date with 2.71 crore Soil Health Cards issued to farmers in the State of Maharashtra. Also, 1,947 farmers training programme, 66 farmers melas and 4,380 site demonstration for use of micronutrients have been organized in the State.

(c): There is no delay reported for the supply of fertilizers in the State of Maharashtra. The details of opening stocks, requirement, receipt and availability of fertilizers as on 18.07.2025 (Kharif 2025) in Maharashtra is as under-

(Fig in Lakh Metric Tonnes)

| FG | Opening Stock as on 1.04.2025 | Cumulative Requirement (April to July as on 18.07.2025) | Cumulative Receipt (April to July as on 18.07.2025) | Cumulative Availability (April to July as on 18.07.2025) |
|---|-------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Urea | 6.31 | 10.40 | 7.29 | 13.60 |
| Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) | 0.81 | 3.13 | 2.01 | 2.82 |
| Murate of Potash (MOP) | 1.22 | 0.68 | 0.58 | 1.80 |
| Nitrogen, Phosphorus Potash (NPK) complex | 8.91 | 11.52 | 10.90 | 19.82 |
| Single Super Phosphate (SSP) | 4.66 | 4.88 | 3.47 | 8.13 |

The Government is taking necessary enforcement measures to prevent illegal activities related to use of fertilisers in coordination with the States/UTs across the country. As reported by the State of Maharashtra, a total of 9187 inspections were conducted in the State during the period from April, 2025 to July 2025 (as on 18.07.2025), 14 First Information Reports (FIRs) lodged for black marketing, 64 licenses cancelled and one FIR lodged for diversion of fertilisers.
