

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2589 TO BE ANSWERED ON: 11.08.2026

Sustainable and balanced use of fertilizers

2589 # Shri Amar Pal Maurya:
Dr. Parmar Jashvantsinh Salamsinh:
Shri Madan Rathore:
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Will the **Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of measures taken by Government to promote balanced use of fertilizers;
- (b) whether any assistance has been provided for the promotion of organic, bio and city-compost fertilizers during the last three years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures taken to promote soil-test-based and crop-specific application of fertilizers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (c) Government of India have taken following measures to promote balanced use of fertilizers with the aim to improve soil health, enhance crop productivity, and reduce the heavy burden of chemical fertilizer are as under :-

(i) Integrated Nutrient Management (INM): It enables the efficient, economical, and sustainable application of nutrients by judiciously integrating organic inputs, mineral fertilizers, and biological sources. INM recognises that neither chemical fertilizers nor organic inputs alone are sufficient to meet the complete nutritional requirements of crops. It also promotes crop rotation and residue management that enhance system diversity, disrupt pest and disease cycles, and improve nutrient use efficiency.

(ii) Soil Health & Fertility Scheme: Government promotes judicious use of fertilizer through Soil Health & Fertility scheme since 2014-15. Under the scheme Soil Health Cards (SHCs) is provided to farmers, to promote balanced and integrated nutrient management for improving productivity and soil fertility. Soil samples are processed as per standard procedures and analyzed for parameters

such as pH, Electrical Conductivity, Organic Carbon, available Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Sulphur, and micronutrients (Zinc, Copper, Iron, Manganese & Boron). The diagnostic soil health assessment of farmer fields is taken up periodically so as to issue SHCs at least once in 3 years. Since 2014-15 as on date, 25.90 crore Soil Health Cards have been generated/ distributed. Total of 8313 Soil Testing Labs have been established across the country. Soil Test-Based Fertilizer Recommendations is a fundamental and essential step in balanced fertilization. Based on test results, soils are classified as low, medium, or high in nutrient content. Fertilizer doses are increased for nutrient-deficient soils and reduced where nutrient levels are already sufficient. The Soil Health Card Scheme supports this approach by providing farmers with field-specific soil data, enabling them to apply fertilizers more accurately and avoid excessive use.

(iii) National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF): NMNF was approved by the Union Cabinet on 25.11.2024 as a standalone Centrally Sponsored Scheme to promote Natural Farming. Natural Farming (NF) is a chemical free farming, involving livestock (preferably local breed of cow) integrated natural farming methods and diversified crop systems rooted in the Indian traditional knowledge. The mission aims to promote nature-based sustainable systems of farming with on farm inputs thus reducing dependency on chemical inputs, improve soil health, and reduction in input cost. Budget outlay approved for NMNF is ₹2481.00 crore (GoI share: ₹1584.00 crore and States' share: ₹897.00). During the FY 2025-26, 18,893 clusters have been formed covering an area of 10.32 lakh hectares and involving 20.93 lakh farmers under the Mission. To support technology dissemination and on-ground implementation, 33,257 Krishi Sakhis/Community Resource Persons (CRPs) have been trained and 7,601 Bio-Input Resource Centres (BRCs) have been established for ensuring availability of natural farming inputs at the local level. Further, 33.89 lakh farmers have been made aware about natural farming and 18.13 lakh Soil samples have been collected under the mission. Against a budget allocation of ₹725.00 crore for the financial year 2025-26, a total of ₹599.68 crore has been utilized / incurred expenditure. More than 22.47 lakh farmers have been registered under the Natural Farming Certification System (NFCS), out of which more than 14.43 lakh farmers have been certified.

(iv) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY): Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana of RKVY is being implemented since 2015-16 in all States/UTs except North Eastern States for promoting organic farming. The scheme stresses on end-to-end support to farmers engaged in organic farming i.e. from production to processing, certification and marketing. Primary focus of the schemes is to form organic clusters, with preference to small and marginal farmers, to create a supply chain. Under PKVY Scheme, since its inception (as on 30.06.2026), 18.93 lakh hectares area has been covered benefitting 33.63 lakh farmers and a total of ₹2811.36 crore (central share) has been released.

(v) Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER): MOVCDNER is being implemented since 2015-16 to promote organic farming in the North Eastern States. MOVCDNER is a centrally sponsored

scheme with 100% GoI share. The scheme focuses on enhancing farmers participation in agriculture value chain through promotion of organic farming and development of **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)**. Till date, 2.36 lakh hectares brought under organic farming and 2.70 lakh farmers benefited. 427 Unique FPOs and 52 extended FPOs (Total-479 FPOs) have been formed under MOVDKNER. 933 infrastructure such as storage, processing units etc. have been created. All 8 north east states have developed their own organic product brands through the support of the scheme. Under MOVDKNER Scheme since its inception (as on 30.06.2026), 2.36 lakh hectares brought under organic farming benefitting 2.74 lakh farmers and a total of ₹1548.62 crore (central share) has been released

(vi) PM-PRANAM (PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth) Scheme: PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness Generation, Nourishment, and Amelioration of Mother-Earth (PM-PRANAM) is an initiative which aims to support the mass movement initiated by States and Union Territories (UTs) to preserve the health of Mother Earth through the promotion of sustainable and balanced fertilizer use, adoption of alternative fertilizers, promotion of organic farming, and implementation of resource conservation technologies. All States/UTs are covered under the PM-PRANAM scheme. Under the PM-PRANAM scheme, there is a provision to provide incentives to States/UTs for reduction of consumption of chemical fertilizers (Urea, DAP, NPK, MOP) in a given financial year, compared to the average consumption over the previous three years, equivalent to 50% of the fertilizer subsidy saved.

(vii) Promotion of Nano Fertilizers : Nano Fertilizers are plant nutrients packaged in tiny particles called nanomaterials, allowing nutrients to be released slowly and absorbed by crops more efficiently, with minimal waste. In order to promote the use of Nano Fertilizers among farmers across the country, the following measures have been undertaken by the Government:

- Use of Nano Fertilizers is promoted through different activities such as awareness camps, webinars, field demonstrations, Kisan Sammelans and films in regional languages etc.
- Nano Fertilizers, like Nano Urea and Nano DAP, are made available at Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendras (PMKSKs) by concerned companies.
- For ease in application and utilization of Nano fertilizers, like Nano Urea and Nano DAP, through foliar application, initiatives such as innovative spraying options like 'Kisan Drones' and distribution of battery operated sprayers at retail points are undertaken. For this purpose, pilot training and custom hiring spraying services through Village Level Entrepreneurs are actively promoted.

(viii) Market Development Assistance (MDA): To promote production of soil carbon enhancers namely Fermented Organic Manure (FOM), Liquid FOM (LFOM), and Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM), Department of Fertilizers provides assistance of Rs. 1500/MT to Compressed Biogas (CBG) operators under Central Sector GOBAR-dhan (Galvanized Organic Bio Agro Resources-Dhan) scheme.

(ix) Kisan Sangoshthis: Kisan Sangoshthis are conducted by the fertilizer companies for extensive field interaction with farmers, local farmer cooperatives, panchayats etc. 24 Fertilizer Marketing Companies (FMCs) conducted 25,095 Camps/Kisan Sangoshthis across the Country during February 2025 to July 2026. Camps/Kisan Sangoshthis are being organised for promotion of FOM/LFOM/PROM under PM-PRANAM by the Fertilizer companies. This initiative focuses on critical areas such as balanced use of fertilizers, integrated nutrient management (INM), promotion of organic farming, and soil health improvement. Awareness activities for farmers include demonstrations on the application of FOM, LFOM, PROM, Potash Derived from Molasses (PDM). This camps also feature technical sessions on appropriate fertilizer dosages, crop-specific application techniques, and the benefits of organic inputs. The program aims to enhance farmers understanding of INM, encourage adoption of balanced nutrient practices, and strengthen outreach and credibility through demonstration plots and interactive farmer engagement. The Government is regularly coordinating with State and Union Territory Governments to support and promote their efforts under this scheme.

(d) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) promotes balanced and soil test-based fertilizer use through integrated research, technology development, demonstrations and capacity building. The Council has developed General Fertilizer Recommendations (GFRs) based on soil test values and Soil Test Crop Response (STCR) equations for rice, wheat, maize (kharif and rabi) and sugarcane across different States, and shared these with the State Governments for location-specific fertilizer recommendations. ICAR promotes Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through regular farmer training programmes, Kisan Melas, field demonstrations and advisories on soil testing, balanced fertilization, biofertilizers, organic manures, green manuring, crop diversification, integrated farming, organic farming and natural farming. These interventions improve nutrient-use efficiency, enhance biological nutrient availability, maintain soil microbial diversity and reduce nutrient losses, thereby supporting sustainable crop production.

To strengthen adoption, during May-June 2026, ICAR organized the nationwide Khet Bachao Abhiyan on balanced fertilization and INM, covering 773 districts, 71,102 villages and reaching over 1.04 crore farmers through 96,227 field demonstrations and 6,721 farmer training programmes. In addition, under the All-India Network Programme on Natural Farming (formerly AINP-Organic Farming), comprising 20 cooperating centres across 16 States, ICAR has developed and validated organic farming packages for 80 cropping systems, along with suitable crop varieties, to support integrated and balanced nutrient management under diverse agro-ecological conditions.
