GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2594 TO BE ANSWERED **ON 11.08.2026**

Beneficiaries under NBS scheme

2594. Shri Ratanjit Pratap Narain Singh**:**

Will the Minister of **CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS** be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise data on the number of beneficiaries under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme, the policy particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the percentage change in the country's dependency on imported fertilizers under the policy;

(c) the steps taken in the past year to ensure that the policy supports balanced nutrient application, particularly in soil health improvement;

(d) the details of the incentives given to the domestic production of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers under the policy to strengthen self-reliance in fertilizer supply; and

(e) the measures taken to prevent price volatility of the fertilizers under the policy?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS

(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

a) The state-wise, year-wise number of beneficiaries from 2018-19 to 2026-27 (till 21st July 2026) under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme including Uttar Pradesh is enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

b) The Government has implemented Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme w.e.f. 01.04.2010 for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) Fertilizers. Under the Scheme, P&K fertilizers are covered under Open General License (OGL) and companies are free to import/manufacture these fertilizers as per their business dynamics. The quantity of imported (P&K) fertilizers during past three years are enclosed at **Annexure -II**.

c) Government promotes judicious use of fertilizer through Soil Health & Fertility scheme. The scheme is being implemented since 2014-15 to provide Soil Health Cards (SHCs) for all farm holdings, to promote balanced and integrated nutrient management for improving productivity and soil fertility.

- Soil samples are processed as per standard procedures and analysed for parameters such as pH, Electrical Conductivity, Organic Carbon, available Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Sulphur, and micronutrients (Zinc, Copper, Iron, Manganese & Boron).
- Since 2014-15, 26.09 crore Soil Health Cards have been generated/ distributed as on date across the country.
- In addition to state soil labs above, 1020 school mini soil labs are also established in the country under school soil health programme.
- Under the scheme, Rs. 2153.29 Crore fund has been released so far since inception.
- 93781 farmer's trainings, 6.80 lakh demonstrations, 7425 farmer's melas/ campaigns on soil health card recommendations have been organized across the country.
- 1351166 ha area also covered under Promotion & Distribution of Micronutrients in the scheme.
- National Productivity Council (NPC), New Delhi carried out a study 'Soil Testing Infrastructure for Faster Delivery of SHC in India' in 2017 in 76 districts of 19 States including Madhya Pradesh covering 170 soil testing labs and 1700 farmers. As a result of application of fertilizer and micronutrients as per SHC recommendations, there has been a decrease of use of chemical fertilizer application in the range of 8-10% was found. Overall, 5-6% increase in the yield of crops was reported, due to application of fertilizer and micronutrients as per SHC.
- An impact study of Soil Health & Fertility Scheme (November 2017) was conducted by National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. As per report, about 62.8% of the farmers use fertilizers according to the recommendations on the SHC. The cost per acre reduced by 4 to 10 % due to low fertilizer use. Crop yields increased for majority of the crops, although moderately. Overall, paddy farmers reduced use of urea by 9%, Diammonium Phosphate (DAP)/Single Super Phosphate

by 7%, but increased use of Potassium by 20%. There was substantial decline in fertilizer use especially urea and DAP in paddy and cotton resulted in decreased cost of cultivation per unit area.

- Further, NITI Aayog has conducted a study on the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme. The evaluation notes that the Scheme has several conceptual strengths, including the promotion of balanced fertilization through nutrient-linked subsidies, expansion of coverage to 28 fertilizer grades, and comparatively lower subsidy requirements than urea. The study also highlights that there is scope for further strengthening the effectiveness of the Scheme by addressing aspects such as the inclusion of urea within the NBS framework, further streamlining operational processes, reducing import dependence, improving affordability for small and marginal farmers.

d) The Government has implemented Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme w.e.f. 01.04.2010 for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) Fertilizers. Under the Scheme, P&K fertilizers are covered under Open General License (OGL) and companies are free to import/manufacture these fertilizers as per their business dynamics.

However, to reduce dependence on imported Phosphatic fertilizers and make country self-reliant measures have been taken to encourage domestic production through guidelines 18.01.2024 on reasonableness of MRP, wherein importers/ manufacturers and integrated manufacturers are given reasonable profit of 8%/10% and 12% respectively; based on the requests, the new manufacturing units or increase in manufacturing capacity of existing units have been recognized / taken on record under the NBS Scheme; the number of P&K fertilizers covered under NBS Scheme has increased from 22 grades in 2021 to 28 grades; Freight Subsidy on SSP, which is an indigenously manufactured fertilizer, is being provided since Kharif, 2022 to promote SSP usage for providing Phosphatic or 'P' nutrient to the soil. Further the rates of nutrients under NBS scheme are decided on bi-annual basis to ensure availability of fertilizers under the Scheme.

e) The Government has implemented Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme w.e.f. 01.04.2010 for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) Fertilizers. Under NBS Scheme, MRP of P&K fertilizers are decontrolled and companies are free to fix MRP as per their business dynamics at a reasonable level. The NBS subsidy is provided to manufacturer/importer on notified P&K fertilizers on its PoS sale during the season, depending on their nutrient content to ensure availability of fertilizers to farmers. The volatility in international prices of key fertilizers and raw materials is considered while fixing NBS rates for P&K fertilizers so that fertilizers remain affordable to the farmers. Further, to make DAP being a key fertilizer, available at affordable price of Rs. 1350 per 50 kg bag, special provisions like Rs. 3500 per MT to cover 'Other Costs' which includes costs incurred from factory gate to farm gate, advantage / disadvantage due to increase / decrease in international prices, provision for GST component included in the MRP and provision for reasonable return @ 4% of net MRP (MRP-GST) have been extended to both imported and domestic DAP and imported TSP over and above NBS subsidy for Kharif 2026 season to keep the prices of fertilizers stable.

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Annexure - I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2594 for answer on 11.08.2026

Financial Year Wise Number of Unique Buyer Count									
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27 Till Date 21.07.2026
State Name	UNIQUE BUYER COUNT	UNIQUE BUYER COUNT	UNIQUE BUYER COUNT	UNIQUE BUYER COUNT	UNIQUE BUYER COUNT	UNIQUE BUYER COUNT	UNIQUE BUYER COUNT	UNIQUE BUYER COUNT	UNIQUE BUYER COUNT
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7	0	3371	6595	3911	1182	531	4741	1009
Andhra Pradesh	1095388	1156757	1946250	2420757	2576865	2519432	1853875	3684931	1511908
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	419	385	413	912	656
Assam	106078	152779	442794	981755	1156454	949449	519503	816300	328274
Bihar	3103292	3250129	5792419	8629982	8968398	7827186	5096724	8608275	2541881
Chandigarh		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	970738	833173	1114916	1538559	1819901	1863191	1673487	1949750	2094518
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	870	1286	1116	3392	4748	3070	1841	2027	2219
Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi	9234	13361	17895	16909	14966	14819	11346	15555	7173
Goa	27177	14251	28400	38170	29747	24536	17395	23015	9003
Gujarat	1655325	1997530	3130956	3326198	3589418	3588487	2598304	4624470	2212411
Haryana	750425	734453	1304665	1703443	1490200	1394586	1107848	1576928	642354
Himachal Pradesh	160887	146577	183489	231379	223054	193130	117147	178021	72526
Jammu and Kashmir	133565	119513	294941	408990	429671	431806	206856	353019	240333
Jharkhand	489187	502490	1184235	1099683	874493	848994	711035	1010185	348223
Karnataka	943063	762304	1809679	2516869	2624907	2264358	1973427	2854102	1950554
Kerala	304410	216493	282405	344075	303346	305886	208177	260341	93655
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	1221326	1608210	4284080	5287332	5498528	5319774	4374186	6233555	2947061
Maharashtra	2651915	2719899	5005805	5063207	4856921	4575532	3694095	4962102	3587780
Manipur	852	624	2029	8676	7558	1870	1167	6927	3551
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	7884	7370	10031	4871
Mizoram	284	1094	628	1062	4430	4306	2178	2845	72
Nagaland	28	26	54	127	564	570	682	1321	1027
Odisha	1168454	1291955	1918350	2116922	1917542	1710766	1535331	2202888	1106025
Puducherry	5984	6144	9954	14858	16824	12767	9854	14999	8365
Punjab	689790	542882	1085844	1284385	1184946	1157442	946907	1184655	677844
Rajasthan	1955748	2158900	2877048	3812781	4200972	3486488	2616082	5117281	2967779
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Tamil Nadu	814804	829759	1561365	2441637	2735187	2506239	1629339	2617581	913512
Telangana	962567	1291461	2141275	2125211	2075730	2161339	1804276	4076869	1753049
Tripura	885	1116	7027	35013	82206	43694	26180	37705	20327
Uttarakhand	167824	162619	262508	292177	273367	246165	175114	266064	272727
Uttar Pradesh	6961187	10018967	18443006	19181088	19233466	18372915	14723538	26266875	11893563
West Bengal	2150297	2288873	3125183	2685787	2612368	2054038	1512752	2434885	750057

Annexure - II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2594 for answer on 11.08.2026

In LMT	Urea			DAP			MOP			NPKs		
	2023-24	**2024-25**	**2025-26**	**2023-24**	**2024-25**	**2025-26**	**2023-24**	**2024-25**	**2025-26**	**2023-24**	**2024-25**	**2025-26**
PoS Sale	357.8	387.92	396.59	109.72	96.29	100.8	16.45	22.024	22.56	116.8	149.71	150.37
Imported quantity	70.42	56.47	103.5	55.67	45.69	61.94	28.69	35.41	29	22.17	22.72	37.08
% import of total sale	**19.68 %**	**14.56%**	**26.10%**	**50.74%**	**47.45 %**	**61.45%**	**174.41 %**	**160.78%**	**128.55 %**	**18.98 %**	**15.18%**	**24.66%**