

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 992 TO BE ANSWERED ON: 28.07.2026

Indigenous production of potash

992. SHRI ANIL KUMAR YADAV MANDADI:

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

- (a) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to produce/manufacture potash indigenously, and
- (b) the steps/measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government in coordinating various agencies viz., Geological Survey of India (GSI), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) etc., to achieve self-reliance in production of potash?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The Government has taken several initiatives for production/manufacture of Potash indigenously:

Potassium Derived from Molasses (PDM) is a by-product of sugar industry. PDM has minimum 14.5% potash and can be used by farmers in field as an alternative to MOP (Muriate of Potash with 60% potash content). Thus, PDM reduces the dependence on imported potash. PDM was notified under Fertilizer Control Order (1985) in 2009, and in order to incentivize the use of PDM, it was inducted under Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme w.e.f. 13.10.2021.

In order to promote manufacturing and availability of PDM to the farmers as a sustainable, eco-friendly, and cost-effective alternative to conventional Muriate of Potash (MOP), a tune of Rs. 345 per tonne of subsidy has been fixed for PDM for

Kharif, 2026 season. Further, to monitor the price of PDM, a Joint Working Group (JWG) of Department of Food & Public Distribution and Department of Fertilizers along with Indian Sugar and Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) & fertilizer companies has been constituted.

To enhance the domestic exploration of potash in the country in alignment with the objectives of National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), Geological Survey of India (GSI) has intensified its exploration activities with special emphasis on the exploration of critical minerals in the country. Since the launch of NCMM in 2024-25, GSI undertook 8 exploration projects on potash in Rajasthan and Punjab. Further, during 2026-27, GSI took up 6 mineral exploration projects for potash in Rajasthan and Punjab. Since the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation (MMDR) Amendment Act, 2015, GSI has established a total of 456.52 million tonnes resource of potash at various grades and different cut-offs from Rajasthan and Punjab.

To support self-reliance in potash production through indigenous and alternative nutrient sources, Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) has identified and developed potassium-solubilizing microorganisms (*Frateuria aurantia*, *Serratia liquefaciens* and *Bacillus* sp), which are being promoted as potash biofertilizers to improve the availability of native soil potassium and reduce dependence on imported potash fertilizers.
