

O.I.H.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION & FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 248
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13TH MARCH, 2018

USE OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS

*248. DR. BANSHILAL MAHATO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण
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be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of chemical fertilizers used/being used across the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether the Government has carried out any research to ascertain the extent to which the excessive use of chemical fertilizers destroys soil fertility and causes various types of diseases and other problems;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the follow-up action taken by the Government on the findings of the said research;
- (d) whether the Government has launched any programme/campaign to create awareness amongst the farmers regarding use of conventional and harmless fertilizers or the benefits of organic farming; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण ½â"ãè

(SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 248 DUE FOR REPLY ON 13TH MARCH, 2018.

(a): The total consumption of the major fertilizer namely Urea, Di-ammonium Phosphate, Muriate of Potash, Complex and Single Super Phosphate during last three years and the current year is as under:

Year	Consumption (in LMT)
2014-15	533.56
2015-16	552.82
2016-17	536.11
2017-18*	510.70

*Estimated sales upto February, 2018

(b) & (c): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through All India Coordinated Research Project on 'Long-Term Fertilizer Experiments has assessed the impact of long term use of chemical fertilizers in different soil types (fixed locations) under dominant cropping systems. The investigation over the last five decades indicates that even in NPK fertilized system, nutritional disorders in terms of deficiency of micro and secondary nutrients can surface after few years, affecting soil health and crop productivity. Highest decline in crop yield was observed in plot receiving only urea.

As such, there is no harmful effect of chemical fertilizers on soil health/degradation with balanced and judicious use. However, imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter over years may cause multi-nutrient deficiencies *vis-à-vis* nutrient disorders in plants.

Accordingly, the ICAR recommends soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources (manure, biofertilizers etc.) of plant nutrients to ensure judicious use of chemical

fertilizers preventing deterioration of soil health and contamination of groundwater. In addition, split application and placement of fertilizers, use of slow releasing N-fertilizers and nitrification inhibitors, growing leguminous crops and use of Resource Conservation Technologies (RCTs) are also advocated, by extension functionaries.

The ICAR also imparts training, organises front-line demonstrations etc. to educate farmers on all these aspects.

Further, the Government of India is implementing a Soil Health Card Scheme under the National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture. Under the scheme the farmers are not only educated about the soil fertility status of their land but are also provided the recommended doses of nutrients required to be used by the farmers for a particular crop.

(d) & (e): Government of India is implementing Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER). Under these schemes, the main focus is on creating awareness and educating the farmers about organic farming practices in the areas where the clusters are formed.

Besides, National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF), Ghaziabad and its regional centres undertake various extension and publicity activities like exhibitions, radio talks, TV programmes distribution of literature on organic inputs/organic farming etc. to educate farmers. NCOF and its centres also conducts training and skill development courses for farmers in organic farming.