

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1665
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH MARCH, 2018

SOIL FERTILITY

1665. SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI BHARATHI MOHAN R.K.:
SHRIMATI V. SATHYA BAMA:
SHRI PR. SENTHIL NATHAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken/ proposes to take steps to encourage the use of eco friendly fertilizers and pesticides to protect the soil fertility and to curb use of hazardous chemicals in agriculture produce and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the prolonged and excessive use of chemicals and fertilizers and insecticides have resulted in loss of soil fertility and chemical contamination in agriculture produce; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the effective steps taken by the Government to protect people from such dangers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a): Government has taken the following steps to encourage the eco-friendly fertilizers and pesticides:-

(i) Financial assistance is provided for setting up of fruit/ vegetable/ Agro waste compost production units for a capacity of 3000 TPA production capacity @ 33 percent for farmers / individuals / private agencies of total financial outlay limited to Rs. 63 lakh, whichever is less. For the units to be set up by the State Governments, 100 percent assistance limited to Rs. 190 lakh per unit.

(ii) Financial assistance is provided for setting up of Biofertilizer/ Biopesticides production units for a capacity of 200 TPA/ 50000 LPA production capacity @ 25 percent for farmers / individuals / private agencies of total financial outlay limited to Rs. 40 lakh, whichever is less. For the units to be set up by the State Governments, 100 percent assistance limited to Rs. 160 lakh per unit.

(iii) Financial assistance is provided for promotion of organic inputs on farmers field (including manure , vermicompost, biofertilizers, compost, herbal extracts etc) @ 50 percent of cost subject to a limit of Rs. 5000/- per hectare or Rs. 10000 per beneficiary.

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(iv) Financial assistance is provided under the component Integrated manure management of “Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana” (PKVY) for Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM) @ Rs. 1000/- per acre for procuring applications of PROM to soil to meet Phosphorous/Zinc deficiency in soil.

(v) Financial assistance is provided for Vermi compost unit of size 7’x3’ x1’ @ Rs. 5000 per unit .

(vi) Under the Rainfed Area Development (RAD) component of NMSA, financial assistance is provided for permanent structure vermi bed @ 50 percent of cost subject to limit of Rs. 125 per cubic feet and maximum of Rs. 50000 per unit. Similarly, financial assistance is provided for High Density Polyethhylene (HDPE) vermi bed up to a maximum of Rs. 8000/- per unit.

(vii) Financial Assistance is provided as Market Development Assistance to Fertilizer Companies for sale of City compost @ Rs. 1500/- per MT.

(viii) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed technology to prepare various types of organic manures such as Phosphocompost, Vermi compost, Bioenriched compost, City compost etc to promote manures/ compost technologies.

(ix) Under the scheme “Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach” , Farm Field Schools are organized to sensitize farmers on Integrated Pest Management Approach and to use chemical pesticides as a last resort as per approved labels and leaflets.

(b) & (c): There is no harmful effect of chemical fertilizers on soil health with balanced and judicious use. However, imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter over years may cause multinutrient deficiencies *vis-à-vis* decline in soil health. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research(ICAR) under 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 few decades indicated that even in NPK fertilized system, nutritional disorders in terms of deficiency of micro and secondary nutrients surfaced after few years affecting soil health and crop productivity.

Following steps have been taken to avoid excessive use of fertilizers and insecticides:-

(i) Soil Health Card Scheme is being implemented to assist all State Governments to evaluate fertility in all farm holdings across the country and issue soil health cards to farmers regularly in a cycle of 2 years. Soil health cards provide information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

(ii) Government is also implementing “Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach” scheme wherein, inter-alia, Farmers Field Schools are organized to sensitize farmers on Integrated Pest management approach and to use chemical pesticides as a last resort as per approved labels and leaflets.

(iii) Chemical free organic farming is also being encouraged by Government under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) & Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCDNER).