

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2453
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2018

Nitrogen Pollution

2453. KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:
SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Nitrogen Pollution is fast emerging as a more challenging problem which may become a serious ecological threat and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether according to the data of the Fertiliser Association of India (FAI), of the 17 Million tonne of Nitrogen Fertiliser consumed annually in the country, only a third of that, which is applied to rice and wheat, is absorbed by the plants in the form of nitrates;
- (c) if so, whether nearly eighty percent of the Nitrogen used during agriculture and other activities is lost to the environment leading to irreparable and irreversible damage to the water bodies and environment and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to make intensive efforts to rein in Nitrogen effluence as manufacturing of nitrous fertilisers is an extremely fossil fuel intensive activity and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for effective remedial measures to curb Nitrogen effluence in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (c) Excess release of anthropogenic nitrogenous compounds like Nitrogen Oxides and Nitrogenous fertilizers leads to environmental pollution including pollution in water bodies.

According to Fertiliser Association of India (FAI) nearly 50% of Nitrogen used in the form of fertilizer during agriculture and other activities is lost to the environment through the process of leaching principally as nitrate and volatilization as ammonia gas.

(d) & (e) The initiatives taken by the Government to control the environmental pollution due to nitrogenous chemical compounds inter-alia include, categorization of fertilizer industry under 17 categories of highly polluting industries; stringent norms stipulated for Nitrogenous compounds in emission/effluent discharge from fertilizer

industry; installation of online (24x7) monitoring devices and adoption of water conservation practices by fertilizer industry; directions from CPCB to SPCBs for setting up of sewerage system for sewage collection, treatment and disposal by local/urban bodies and also to meet the standards as laid down for its use for non-potable purpose; etc.

In addition, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also inter-alia recommended soil test based integrated nutrient management practices through conjunctive use of inorganic and organic sources (compost, bio-fertilizers, green manure etc.); split application and placement of nitrogenous fertilizers, use of slow releasing N-fertilizers; nitrification inhibitors and use of neem coated urea; education and training programmes for farmers etc. for curbing nitrogen effluence.
