

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1634
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2ND JULY, 2019

USE OF FERTILIZERS

1634. SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that excessive use of chemical fertilizers destroys the soil fertility and it also causes various kinds of diseases and other problems;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to curb this practice along with the details thereof;
- (c) whether the farmers are being made aware of use of organic fertilizers in place of chemical fertilizers;
- (d) whether the Government has launched any programmes to raise awareness among the farmers regarding the need of organic farming to reduce the effects of imbalanced use of fertilizers and benefits of organic farming; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

- (a): Yes, excessive use of chemical fertilizers destroys the soil fertility and also causes other problems.
- (b): To curb the practice of excessive use of chemical fertilizers, the following steps have been taken:
 - (i) Soil Health Card Scheme has been introduced in year 2014-15 to assist State Governments to issue soil health cards to all farmers in the country. Soil health cards provide information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and fertility. Soil status is assessed regularly every 2 years so that nutrient deficiencies are identified and corrective steps taken.

- (ii) Indian Council of Agricultural Research(ICAR) is recommending soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources (manure, bio-fertilizers, green manuring, in-situ crop residue recycling etc.) of plant nutrients with 4Rs approach i.e right quantity, right time, right mode and right type of fertilizer to reduce use of chemical fertilizers to improve soil health and fertility. In addition, split application and placement of fertilizers, use of slow releasing fertilizers including neem coated urea and nitrification inhibitors, growing leguminous crops, and use of Resource Conservation Technologies (RCTs) are also advocated.
 - (iii) The Government is focusing on creating awareness and educating the farmers about organic farming practices under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) schemes in the areas where clusters are formed.
- (c) to (e): The following programme / activities are undertaken to make farmers aware of use of organic fertilizers:
- (i) Government is recommending soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of inorganic and organic sources of plant nutrient management to sustain good soil health.
 - (ii) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) imparts training, organizes front line demonstrations to educate farmers on this aspect.
 - (iii) Under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) schemes, extension and publicity activities on organic farming practices are undertaken through print and electronic media.
 - (iv) 30 days certificate course on organic farming, Farmers' Training and Field Demonstration (FTFD) programmes have been conducted since 2015-16 under "Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana' (SAGY).
