

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2772 TO BE ANSWERED ON: 17.03.2023

Damage caused due to Increased use of Chemical Fertilizers

2772: SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any research or gathered any data/information to ascertain the damage being caused to agricultural crops/land due to increased use of chemical fertilizers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the 24.9 percent decline in allocations towards fertilizers subsidy under BE 2023 as against RE 2022 will create an impact on the accessibility of fertilizers to farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any measures to mitigate the rising cost of raw materials for non-urea fertilizers such as phosphoric acid and ammonia thereto; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA)

(a) & (b): There is no harmful effect of chemical fertilizers with recommended doses and their judicious use. However, imbalance use of fertilizers may lead to nutritional disorders in plants. The study conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research under All India Coordinated Research Project on 'Long-Term Fertilizer Experiments' in different soil types (fixed locations) under dominant cropping systems has revealed that even in plots receiving recommended dose of NPK fertilizers or more may result in deficiency of micro and secondary nutrients after few years affecting soil health and crop productivity. The limiting nutrients do not allow the full expression of other nutrients, thereby, lowering the fertilizer responses and crop productivity.

ICAR suggests soil test based nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources (manure, bio-fertilizers etc.) of plant nutrients to overcome indiscriminate/over use of fertilizers. 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.

The ICAR also imparts training, organizes Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) etc. to educate farmers on all these aspects.

(c) & (d): The funds provided in Union Budget 2023-24 at Budget Estimate (BE) stage for fertilizer subsidy is more than the BE 2022-23. In case of any additional requirement for funds, Department of Fertilizers will approach Ministry of Finance at appropriate time.

(e) & (f): In view of the ongoing international prices of finished P&K fertilizers as well as its raw materials, Gol, under its Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme has increased the P&K fertilizers subsidy over a period of time. The per kg subsidy rates for nutrients viz. N, P, K and S under NBS scheme is as under:

S. No.	Nutrients	NBS (Rs. Per Kg of Nutrient) (from 01.04.21 to 19.05.21)	NBS (Rs. Per Kg of Nutrient (from 20.5.21 to 31.3.22) **	NBS (Rs. Per Kg of Nutrient) (from 01.04.22 to 30.09.22)	NBS (Rs. Per Kg of Nutrient) (from 01.10.22 to 31.3.23)
1.	N	18.789	18.789	91.96	98.02
2.	P	14.888	45.323	72.74	66.93
3.	K	10.116	10.116	25.31	23.65
4.	S	2.374	2.374	6.94	6.12

** A special one-time package with additional subsidy has been provided (effective from 01.10.2021 to 31.3.2022) for DAP at Rs.8769/MT and 3 most consumed NPK fertilizers (10:26:26, 20:20:0:13 and 12:32:16) at Rs. 2000/MT for each grade in order to make P&K fertilizers available at affordable prices to the farmers.
