

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3008**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2023

**MARKET DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME**

3008. SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEB PATIL:  
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:  
SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN:  
PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI:  
DR. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV:  
DR. SUJAY RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE PATIL:  
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:

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

- (a) whether the Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme aim to increase organic fertilizer production and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the specific measures or incentives that are included in the MDA scheme to promote the restoration, nourishment and betterment of the planet alongwith utilisation of funds sanctioned for MDA to promote organic fertilisers;
- (c) the details regarding existing biogas and compressed biogas plants will benefit from the MDA scheme and the kind of support they will receive and the location of these plants and benefits they will avail, itemised State-wise;
- (d) the percentage of input biogas plants producing as organic fertilizer and the details regarding significance as Fermented Organic Manure (FOM);
- (e) the findings of the ICAR study regarding the benefits of biofertilizers in improving crop yields and supplementing chemical fertilizers;
- (f) whether the Government has any plan to monitor and evaluate the outcomes and effectiveness of the MDA scheme in promoting organic fertilizer production and reducing the import of chemical fertilizers; and
- (g) the data on the number of organic fertilizers brands registered in the country, State-wise?

## ANSWER

### MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Government has approved the Market Development Assistance (MDA) @ Rs. 1500/MT to promote organic fertilizers, i.e., manure produced at plants under GOBARdhan initiative covering different Biogas/CBG support schemes/ programmes of stakeholder Ministries/ Departments such as Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme of MoPNG, 'Waste to Energy' programme of MNRE, Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) of DDWS, etc. with total outlay of Rs. 1451.84 Crore (FY 2023-24 to 2025-26), which includes a corpus of Rs. 360 Crore for research gap funding, etc. It will promote integrated nutrient management and reduce overuse of chemical fertilizers ensuring sustainability, soil health and better use efficiency of inputs. Government has also approved PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness Generation, Nourishment, and Amelioration of Mother-Earth (PM-PRANAM). The initiative aims to save the health of Mother Earth by promoting sustainable and balanced use of fertilizers, adopting alternate fertilizers, promoting organic farming and implementing resource conservation technologies.

This will incentivize States/UTs to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers. This will also incentivize farmers to reduce the overall consumption of fertilizers for improving soil health, fertility and sustainable productivity.

(c): Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) is implementing Phase – II of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) (Grameen) in a mission mode from 2020-21 to 2024-25. Galvanizing Organic Bio- Resources-Dhan (GOBARdhan), launched in 2018 under SBM (G), is now an integral component of bio degradable waste management under SBM (G) Phase-II for ensuring cleanliness in villages by converting organic and biodegradable waste including cattle dung, crop residue, market waste etc. into bio-gas and bio-slurry. Financial assistance of upto Rs. 50 lakh per Districts is available for the entire programme period.

DDWS is coordinating the implementation of GOBARdhan initiatives of Gol and has developed a unified registration portal for GOBARdhan. As per Department of Fertilizer's Office Memorandum dated 18.07.2023 on policy on promotion of organic fertilizers, only those Compressed Bio Gas (CBG)/ Biogas plants registered on Unified Registration Portal for GOBARdhan shall be eligible for the Market Development assistance @ Rs 1500/MT.

As on date, 941 Biogas plants and 335 CBG/Bio-CNG plants under various categories viz. Functional, Completed, Under Construction and Yet to start have been registered on the Unified Registration Portal for GOBARdhan (<https://gobardhan.co.in/>)

(d): As per information received from Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, for a biogas plant of 2cum capacity, typically 25% of input added to the plant is converted into biogas,

while about 75% is obtained in the form of liquid slurry that may be used as bio-fertilizer. This ratio of input/output may change depending upon capacity of the plant and other operational parameters.

The by-products of CBG plant are Fermented Organic Manure (FOM) and Liquid Fermented Organic Manure which are considered as rich source of plant nutrients and used as supplements to chemical fertilizers for plant nutrition and hence widely used in agriculture. The application of FOM improves soil health and fertility as well as sustainable productivity. Being rich source of carbon and Nitrogen Phosphorus and Potassium (NPK), FOM is widely used by the farmers. The quality standard of FOM has been specified under **Fertilizer (Control) Order (FCO), 1985**.

(e): ICAR has developed improved and efficient strains of bio-fertilizers specific to different crops and soil types. Besides, it has developed technology to prepare various types of organic manures such as phosphor-compost, vermin-compost, bio-enriched compost, municipal solid waste compost, etc. from various organic wastes. Bio-fertilizers improved crop yields by 10-25% in different crops and therefore supplement costly chemical fertilizers (nitrogen and phosphorus) by nearly 20-25% in most of the cases when used along with chemical fertilizers. When bio-fertilizers are applied along with compost @ 5t/ha or vermi-compost @ 4t/ha, fertilizer saving will be upto 50%. Therefore, ICAR recommends integrated use of fertilizers and manures.

(f): A Steering Committee has been constituted to oversee operational aspects and detailed guidelines for Market Development Assistance (MDA) to promote organic fertilizers; PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness Generation, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth (PM-PRANAM); and Sulphur Coated Urea with the name of Urea Gold.

(g): The Government of India under the **Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985** specified the specification of organic fertilizer under their scientific /generic name and not specified it under their brand name. 10 organic fertilizers namely; City Compost, Vermicompost, Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM), Organic Manure, Bio-enriched Organic Manure, Bone meal (raw), Bone meal (steamed), Potash derived from Rhodophytes, Fermented Organic Manure and Liquid Fermented Organic manure have been notified and their quality standards have been specified under **Fertilizer (Control) Order (FCO), 1985**.

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