

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 985
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 8TH FEBRUARY, 2022

USE OF BIO-FERTILIZERS

985. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:

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

- (a) whether any study has revealed that most of the serious ailments are occurring due to excessive use of chemical fertilizers and insecticides;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any concrete programme for conducting a detailed study in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to promote the use of bio-fertilizers in view of the adverse effect of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on human health and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to promote production/research work on such bio-fertilizers so as to ensure that there is no shortage of bio-fertilizers and their production remains unaffected and cost-effective and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has conducted any study on the effect of bio-fertilizers on the agricultural output and if so, the outcome thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Government has been making concerted efforts through various programmes to encourage farmers for judicious use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has initiated a multi-centric study “*exposure and the health effects of pesticides*” to assess the health status of population in areas with high and low pesticides usage.

(c) & (d): Government of India has been promoting production and use of bio fertilizers under various schemes/ programmes such as, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Soil Health Management (SHM). The details are given at **Annexure I**. Government initiative through different interventions has resulted in increase in production of bio-fertilizers (carrier based) from 88029 MT in 2015-16 to 134322 MT in 2020-21.

(e): ICAR under “**Network project on soil biodiversity- bio fertilizers**” has developed improved and efficient strains of bio-fertilizers specific to different crops and soil types. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) study indicates that bio-fertilizers can improve crop yields by 10-25% and supplement costly chemical fertilizer (N, P) by nearly 20-25% in most of crops when used along with the chemical fertilizers.

Steps taken by government to promote use of bio-fertilizers under various schemes/ programme:

- a. **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY):** Rs. 31,000 / ha/ 3 years is provided to the farmers directly through DBT, for inputs (bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides, vermin-compost, botanical extracts etc)
- b. **Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER):** Farmers are given assistance of RS 32500 ha/ 3 years for both on-farm & off-farm organic inputs
- c. **National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP):** Financial assistance upto Rs. 300/- per ha is being provided for different components including bio-fertilizers
- d. **Soil Health Management (SHM):** To enable farmers to access bio-fertilizers easily and locally, financial assistance is given to States for Setting up / strengthening of Bio-fertilizer Production units with a capacity of 200 TPA/ 50000 LPA at the rate of Rs.160 lakh per unit for setting up new units and Rs.50 lakh per unit for strengthening of existing units. So far, 15 new units and strengthening of 31 units have sanctioned under the scheme for which Rs.11.51 crore and Rs.8.44 crore respectively released to States.
