

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2069 TO BE ANSWERED ON: 02.08.2024

INCENTIVES FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

2069. SHRI S. JAGATHRATCHAKAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that incentives for Ecosystem Services including a mission mode approach of doubling Nitrogen Use Efficiency from current 30 to 60% by 2030 is likely to save use of inorganic fertilizers as well as huge subsidy; and
- (b) if so, the initiatives taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS

(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) & (b): The nitrogen use efficiency of nitrogenous fertilizers varies between 30-50% depending on soil type and crop grown. Remaining nitrogen is lost mainly by way of nitrate leaching (causing nitrate contamination in ground water above the permissible limit of 10 mg NO₃-N /L), emission of nitrous oxide (N₂O) through denitrification and ammonia volatilization contributing greenhouse emission. Thus, improving the efficiency of N fertilizer will reduce the Green House Gas (GHG) emission and the environment.

Soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management practices through conjunctive use of both 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 etc. have also been developed by ICAR. Improved and efficient strains of bio-fertilizers specific to different crops and soil types both liquid and powdered form that are being promoted.

Government has been providing assistance of ₹1,500/MT under the Market Development Assistance (MDA) scheme to promote marketing of organic fertilizers viz., Fermented Organic Manure (FOM), Liquid FOM, Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM) produced at CBG/BG plants under GOBARdhan initiative. The scheme has a total outlay of ₹1,451.84 crore (FY 2023-24 to 2025-26), which includes a corpus of ₹360 crore for research gap funding etc. These initiatives of the Government are expected to address the imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers thereby reducing chemical fertilizer use.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting held on 28th June, 2023 has approved the “PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness Generation, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother-Earth (PM-PRANAM)”. The initiative aims to support the mass movement started by States/UTs 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.

The Government has promoted use of new age fertilizers like Nano Urea & Sulphur Coated Urea (Urea Gold). Sulphur Coated Urea (SCU) has been notified under the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO) 1985. SCU addresses the sulphur deficiency in the soil, reduces the input costs and raises income for farmers. Further, Sulphur Coated Urea has better Nitrogen Use Efficiency due to slow release of Nitrogen in the soil, which results in enhanced production and increased productivity of crops.
