

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2349
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH AUGUST, 2024

REGISTRATION OF BIO-STIMULANTS UNDER FCO

2349. SHRI BALRAM NAIK PORIKA:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry through its notification dated 23rd February, 2021 has issued guidelines for the registration of Bio-stimulants under Fertilizer Control Order (FCO);
- (b) if so, the details of such products included in FCO under these guidelines; and
- (c) if not, the reasons for non-inclusion of such products in FCO including the time-frame by which the Ministry is likely to give the approval for bio-stimulant products to be included in the FCO?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): In order to regulate bio-stimulants in the country, Government of India issued Notification No S.O. 882 (E) dated 23rd February, 2021, vide which the bio-stimulants have been included in the Fertilizer Control Order 1985 as a 'fertilizer' and provision under Clause 20C has been made for regulating the quality of bio-stimulants.

These provisions have been reviewed and vide Notification S.O. 1963 (E) dated 8th May, 2024, a simplified procedure as below has been prescribed:

- (i) Every manufacturer can now manufacture any bio-stimulant specified in Schedule VI.
- (ii) The following nine categories of bio-stimulants have been included in the FCO;
 - (a) Botanical extracts, including seaweed extracts;
 - (b) Bio-chemicals;

- (c) Protein hydrolysates and amino acids;
 - (d) Vitamins;
 - (e) Cell free microbial products;
 - (f) Antioxidants;
 - (g) Anti-transpirants;
 - (h) Humic and Fulvic acid and their derivatives;
 - (i) Live micro-organisms excluding bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides
- (iii) In case of new bio-stimulant, the manufacturer is required to make an application with chemistry, bio-efficacy, toxicology, heavy metals, pesticides data etc.
- (iv) For protein hydrolysates, sea weed (*Ascophyllum nodosum*, *Saragassum*, *Kappaphycus*, *Gracilaria* and *Ulva*), amino acids, vitamins, Humic and Fulvic acid no toxicology data is required to be submitted.
- (v) Pesticide limit has been increased from 0.01ppm to 1.0 ppm.
- (vi) Provision for grouping of bio-stimulants into categories has been made on accumulation of data.

The Central Bio-stimulant Committee has recommended 11 products for inclusion in Schedule VI of FCO.
