

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3095 TO BE ANSWERED ON: 13.12.2024

Availability and Affordability of Fertilizers

3095: SHRI CHAMALA KIRAN KUMAR REDDY:

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

- (a) the steps being taken to ensure the availability and affordability of fertilisers for farmers in the country, State/UT-wise, particularly in Telangana in the context of rising prices;
- (b) the initiatives taken/proposed to be taken to promote organic fertilisers and sustainable practices among farmers in the country;
- (c) the measures that are being implemented to address concerns related to chemical run off and its impact on soil and water quality; and
- (d) whether any study is being conducted to assess the long-term effects of chemical fertilisers on agricultural sustainability, if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS

(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a): Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) assesses the requirement for major fertilizers viz. UREA, DAP, MOP and NPKS fertilizers, before each cropping season (viz. Kharif & Rabi) through “Zonal Conference for Agricultural Inputs”. Based on the assessment done by DA&FW, Department of Fertilizers allocates adequate quantities of fertilizers to States, including Telangana, by issuing monthly supply plan and continuously monitors the availability position. These supplies are met through indigenous production as well as imports.

Under Urea Subsidy Scheme, Urea is provided to the farmers at a statutorily notified Maximum Retail Price (MRP) irrespective of the cost of production. The subsidized MRP of 45 Kg bag of urea is Rs. 266.50. Further, under Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme, the MRP of Phosphatic & Potassic (P&K) fertilizers is decontrolled and fixed by fertilizer companies as per market dynamics at reasonable level which is monitored by the Government. Accordingly, fertilizers are made available to farmers at affordable prices.

(b): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) promotes the sustainable and balanced use of fertilizers, by recommending soil test based integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources. ICAR develops both processes as well as products in order to promote the use of bio-fertilizers / bio-enriched organic manures. Moreover, pursuant to the Budget Announcement, 2023 and on the recommendations of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC), the Government has approved the Market Development Assistance (MDA)@ Rs. 1500/MT to promote organic fertilizers 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. These initiatives of the Government are expected to address the imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers thereby reducing overuse of chemical fertilizers.

(c) & (d): Investigations carried out under All India Coordinated Research Project on 'Long Term Fertilizer Experiments' by ICAR over five decades at fixed sites have indicated that continuous use of nitrogenous fertilizer alone had deleterious effects on soil health and crop productivity showing deficiencies of other major and micro nutrients. Even with recommended doses of NPK and more, deficiency of micro and secondary nutrients has become a yield limiting factor over the years. There is also a possibility of nitrate contamination in groundwater above the permissible limit of 10 mg NO₃-N/L due to excessive/over-use of nitrogenous fertilizers, particularly in light textured soils that has consequences on human/animal health if used for drinking purposes.
