

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 310* TO BE ANSWERED ON: 21.03.2025

Soil Fertility in Baghpat

310*: DR. RAJKUMAR SANGWAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the problem of degradation in the soil fertility due to excessive use of urea by the farmers in Baghpat district;
- (b) if so, the response of the Government in this regard along with the awareness programmes organised for farmers including the details of the recommendations for alternative fertilizers;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any initiatives to promote organic and bio-fertilizers in Baghpat;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken to control and monitor the distribution of fertilizers and to guide the farmers for their proper use; and
- (e) whether the Government has carried out any scientific study on the condition of soil in Baghpat and if so, the findings of the said study?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 310* FOR 21.03.2025 REGARDING "SOIL FERTILITY IN BAGHPAT" TABLED BY DR. RAJKUMAR SANGWAN

(a) & (b): Under the centrally sponsored scheme National Mission on Natural Farming, a total of 1,886 clusters covering 94,300 hectares in 75 districts have been sanctioned by the Government of India, including 10 clusters spanning 500 hectares in Baghpat district, for the promotion of natural farming from 2024-25 onwards. Additionally, under the National Project on Soil Health and Fertility (NPSHF), a sub-scheme of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) Scheme, the Government of Uttar Pradesh is operating a farmers' advisory service at the block level in Baghpat district. During the financial year 2024-25, 70 Gram Panchayats in Baghpat district have benefited from this advisory service.

Further, Government is implementing Soil Health and Fertility Scheme to assist State Governments to issue Soil Health Cards (SHCs) to farmers in the country. SHCs assist in promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micro nutrients along with organic manures & bio-fertilizers, for improving soil health and fertility. Various activities like setting up/ strengthening of Soil Testing, Fertilizers/ Bio-fertilizers & Organic Fertilizers Quality Control Labs, promoting Micro-nutrients, and testing soil samples to issue Soil Health Cards is implemented under the scheme. Soil Health Card provides information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil and recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility. The achievement under this scheme is as under:

In the country, 24.84 crore Soil Health Cards have been generated till date. 7 Lakh demonstrations, 93,781 farmer's training programmes and 7,425 farmer's mela have been organized on the balanced use of fertilizers to improve soil quality. Advisories are issued to farmers through Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). In addition, 70,002 Krishi Sakhis are trained to issue soil health card advisories.

(c) & (d): National Centre for Organic & Natural Farming (NCONF) has informed that Government has taken several initiatives for promoting the use of bio-fertilizers and organic alternatives to reduce the dependency on use of Urea by farmers in the country including Baghpat District. Some of the key initiatives are as follows:

- i. National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF): To promote chemical free farming including the use of organic and bio-fertilizers.
- ii. Parampargat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY): To support and promote organic farming.

- iii. Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP): Promotion of traditional indigenous practices i.e., on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of cow dung-urine formulations, plant-based preparations in exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs directly or indirectly.
- iv. Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER): Development of certified organic production in a value chain mode to link growers with consumers and to support the development of entire value chain starting from inputs, seeds, certification, to the creation of facilities for collection, aggregation, processing, marketing and brand building initiative.

Government of Uttar Pradesh has informed that during the ongoing FY 2024-25, they are promoting the use of Bio-fertilizer Scheme in Baghpat district. For this Azotobacter, Phosphate Solubilizing Bacteria and Rhizobium Species are utilized to produce about 10,530 packets (200 gm each) of Bio-fertilizers, and these packets are then distributed to the farmers through at sources subsidy (75 percent of the production cost). As an alternative to chemical fertilizers, Bio-Fertilizer and Organic fertilizer are being used by farmers in place of Urea and DAP. Apart from this 16,032 bottles Nano Urea, 7,467 bottles Nano DAP and 1,390 bottles Bio-fertilizer (500 ml) have been used by farmers of Baghpat District.

Government of India has approved provision of Market Development Assistance (MDA) @₹1,500/MT for promotion of Fermented Organic Manure (FOM), Liquid Fermented Organic Manure (LFOM), Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM).

(e) Government of Uttar Pradesh has informed that no scientific study on the condition of soil in Baghpat District has been carried out.
