

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1153
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11TH FEBRUARY, 2025

SHIFT FROM CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS TO ORGANIC FERTILIZERS

1153. SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:

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

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government to shift farmers from chemical fertilizers to organic fertilizers;
- (b) whether the Government is providing any financial incentives or subsidies to farmers to adopt organic farming practices, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the manner in which the Government proposes to face the challenges of increasing the production of organic fertilizers to meet the rising demands;
- (d) the assistance being provided to farmers in shifting from conventional to organic farming practices; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the availability of organic fertilizers in rural areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a), (b) & (d): To shift farmers from chemical fertilizers to organic fertilizers, Government is promoting organic farming through the schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) in all the States/UTs (except North Eastern States). For North Eastern States, Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) scheme is being implemented. Both the schemes stress on end-to-end support to farmers engaged in organic farming i.e. from production to processing, certification & marketing and post-harvest management training and capacity building. Under PKVY, assistance of Rs. 31,500 per ha for a period of three years is provided for promotion of organic farming. Out of this, assistance of Rs. 15,000 per ha for a period of three years is provided to farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer for on- farm /off –farm organic inputs. Under MOVCDNER, assistance of Rs. 46,500/ha for 3 years is provided for creation of Farmer Producer Organizations, support to farmers for organic inputs etc. Out of

this, assistance @ Rs. 32500/ ha for 3 years is provided to farmers for off -farm /on –farm organic inputs under the scheme including Rs. 15,000 as Direct Benefit Transfer to the farmers.

(c): The major challenges of bio fertilizers are maintaining viability/performance of Bio Fertilizers and its quality control. There is less demand for the bio fertilizer in comparison to chemical fertilizers amongst farmers primarily on account of perception that chemical fertilizers have high nutrient content vis-à-vis bio fertilizer which is not direct source of nutrients secondly bio fertilizers being live products are temperature sensitive and have short shelf life posing difficulty in storage and transportation to farmer's doorstep. Further, after chemical fertilizer usage, the impact of bio fertilizer on crop productivity is limited.

To encourage farmers to use the bio-fertilizers, Government has taken various initiatives such as:

- i. Under SHC/SHM schemes Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with bio-fertilizers and organic manures for improving soil health and fertility.
- ii. Ministry of Fertilizer directed all fertilizer marketing companies for mandatory off-take of Fermented Organic Manure and other organic and bio-fertilizers with chemical fertilizers as a “Basket Approach” to ensure balanced and Integrated Nutrient Management for the crops.
- iii. The Integrated use of bio-fertilizer, organic fertilizer and organic manure has been made integral part of package of practices developed by ICAR and State Agriculture Universities.
- iv. ICAR has developed liquid bio-fertilizer technology with higher shelf –life and also developed improved strains of bio-fertilizers specific to different crops and soil types.
- v. For ensuring quality, bio-fertilizers have been notified under Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), 1985 and their quality standards have been specified which are required to be adhered mandatorily by the manufacturers.

(e): Government of India is implementing Galvanizing Organic Bio Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan) scheme under which the Liquid Fermented Organic Manure (LFOM)/ Fermented Organic Manure (FOM) is produced as by product of the Compressed Bio Gas plants. The Government of India is providing Market Development Assistance (MDA) @ Rs 1500/Metric Tonne (MT) for FOM, LOM and Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM). This MDA boosts the consumption of organic manure by the farmers.
