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

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2954

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18th MARCH, 2025

USE OF ORGANIC FERTILIZERS IN RAJASTHAN

2954. SHRI UTKARSH VERMA MADHUR:

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

(a) whether the examination of presence of biological carbon in agricultural land is conducted regularly and if so, the details of the time interval;

(b) the reasons for the reduction of biological carbon in agricultural land during last two decades; and

(c) whether the Government is considering any action plan to increase its availability in land, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): The presence of organic carbon in agricultural land is regularly checked through Soil Health Card (SHC) under the Soil Health & Fertility Scheme. As per guidelines of the scheme, for all land holdings, States generate SHC once in a three years to address nutrient deficiencies in soil. Till date, 24.84 crore SHCs have been generated.

(b): The major reasons for decrease in organic carbon in soil are; (i) injudicious or excessive use of chemical fertilizer, frequent tillage / ploughing, stubble burning, overgrazing, and erosion; (ii) replacing perennial vegetation with monoculture crops and pastures and (iii) soil physicochemical properties such as soil bulk density, high gravel content, soil erosion and low soil water content / poor moisture conservation measures.

(c): To address the issue, Government is implementing Soil Health and Fertility Scheme to issue SHCs to farmers. SHC gives status of pH, electrical conductivity, available Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Sulphur, micro-nutrients (Zinc, Copper, Iron, Manganese & Boron) including Organic Carbon in the soil and advisories are given to the farmers on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM). INM guides judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micro nutrients along with organic manures & biofertilizers, for improving soil organic carbon and soil health.

Government is also promoting organic farming for improving soil organic carbon through Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) in all the States/UTs and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER). 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 majorly bio-fertilizers under PKVY and MOVCDNER. National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) is also implemented to promote farming practices such as biomass mulching, multi-cropping system, use of onfarm made natural farming bio-inputs for improving soil organic content, soil structure, nutrition, enhancing soil water holding capacity.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has also developed several location specific bio-engineering measures to check soil erosion due to run-off of rainwater, sand dune stabilization and shelter belt technology to check wind erosion and reclamation technology for problem soils that enhances soil organic carbon.
