

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.882 TO BE ANSWERED ON: 07.02.2025

Fertilizer Subsidies To Farmers In Dhubri

882: MD. RAKIBUL HUSSAIN:

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

- (a) the steps that are being taken to ensure timely and adequate availability of chemical fertilizers to farmers in Dhubri, especially during the peak sowing seasons;
- (b) the manner in which the Government plans to address the rising prices of fertilizers and ensuring that farmers in Dhubri can access subsidies under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme to reduce their input costs; and;
- (c) whether there exist any plans of the Government to promote the use of organic fertilizers and integrated nutrient management practices in Dhubri to reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers and enhance soil health?

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. Based on the assessment done by DA&FW, Department of Fertilizers allocates adequate quantities of fertilizers to States, including Assam, by issuing monthly supply plan and continuously monitors the availability position. These supplies are met through indigenous production as well as imports. However, within the respective States it is the responsibility of respective State Government to ensure adequate availability through effective Inter-district and Intra-district distribution channels.

As per the information received from the State Government of Assam, adequate amount of fertilizers has been made available in the Dhubri district throughout the year and no shortage of fertilizers has occurred during the peak season.

(b): The Government has implemented Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy w.e.f. 01.04.2010 for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) Fertilizers. Under the policy, a fixed amount of subsidy, decided on annual/bi-annual basis, is provided on notified P&K fertilizers depending on their nutrient content. Under this policy, MRP is fixed by fertilizer companies as per market dynamics at reasonable level which is monitored by the Government. NBS policy is implemented on Pan India basis uniformly.

In order to ensure smooth availability of fertilizers at affordable prices to farmers, Government has provided special package on DAP over and above the NBS subsidy rates on need basis so that Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of the fertilizers remains stable and market volatility are subsumed. In 2024-25, the Government has approved one-time special package on DAP beyond the NBS rates on actual PoS (Point of Sale) sale of DAP from 01.04.2024 @ ₹ 3500 per MT to the P&K fertilizer companies to ensure sustainable availability of DAP at affordable prices to the farmers and support the agriculture sector and related activities and strengthen food security scenario in the country. Thus, the entire subsidy scheme is focused towards timely availability of fertilizers at affordable prices to farmers across the country including the farmers of the Dhubri district in Assam.

(c): Government is promoting organic farming on priority in the country for improving soil health and water retention through PARAMPARAGAT KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA (PKVY) in all the States/UTs (including Punjab) other-than North Eastern Region. The scheme stresses on end-to-end support to farmers engaged in organic farming i.e. from production to processing, certification and marketing and post-harvest management. Training and capacity building are integral parts of the scheme. Under PKVY, assistance of Rs. 31,500 per ha for a period of 3 years is provided for promotion of organic farming to cover different components like training & capacity building, data management, Participatory Guarantee System- India Certification, value addition, marketing and publicity. Out of this, the assistance of Rs. 15,000 per ha for a period of 3 years is provided to farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer for on – farm /off – farm organic inputs.

Further, 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.

Moreover, as per the information received from the State Government of Assam, the Department of Agriculture along with the District Administration promotes organic cultivation through the use of Vermi compost and other bio inputs. The Agriculture Department and P&RD department makes the use of Central Material Collection Facility (MCF) units at each panchayat to prepare vermi compost with help of FIGs and community participation. So far, 256 Vermi Compost units have been developed so as to produce sufficient Vermi Compost which is used by the farmers to reduce dependence on Chemical Fertilizers and to enhance soil health.
