

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2727
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 05th August, 2025

SOIL CONTAMINATION BY CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS

2727. SHRI DHARAMBIR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether studies have shown that excessive use of chemical fertilizers contaminates soil and drinking water, affecting public health in rural India, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether nitrate pollution from urea and other fertilizers is linked to rising cases of cancer and neurological disorders among the rural youth, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to promote bio-fertilizers, organic alternatives and responsible fertilizer usage;
- (d) whether the Government has launched farmer training programs or school campaigns to reduce dependency on synthetic inputs; and
- (e) whether the Government is coordinating with the Health Ministry to address this chemical-induced health risk?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): There are no harmful effects of fertilizers on soil fertility, if applied in a balanced and judicious manner. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), based on the results of All India Coordinated Research Project on “Long Term Fertilizer Experiments” over five decades, is recommending balanced and integrated nutrient management through combined use of both inorganic and organic sources (manure, biofertilizers, green manuring, in-situ crop residue recycling etc.) of plant nutrients. In addition, split application of fertilizer, use of slow releasing fertilizers including neem-coated urea and growing leguminous crops is also advocated.

(c): The Government of India has notified alternative fertilizers namely, Organic Fertilizers, Bio-fertilizers, De-oiled cake, Organic Carbon Enhancer and Nano fertilizer in The Fertiliser Control Order, 1985 to ensure supply and quality of such fertilizers.

Organic farming is promoted through Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) in all the States/UTs except North Eastern States and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) for the North Eastern States. Under PKVY assistance of Rs. 31,500 per hectare in 3 years is provided for promotion of organic farming. Out of this, assistance of Rs. 15,000 per ha is provided to farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer for on- farm /off –farm organic inputs including organic compost. Under MOVCDNER, assistance of Rs. 46,500 per hectare in 3 years is provided for creation of Farmers Producer Organization, support to farmers for organic inputs etc. Out of this, assistance @ Rs. 32500 per hectare 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.

Government is implementing Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme under which assistance @ Rs. 1500/Metric Tonne is provided to Compressed Bio Gas plants/Fertilizer Marketing Companies for promotion of soil carbon enhancers, viz., Fermented Organic Manure (FOM)/Liquid Fermented Organic Manure (LFOM) and organic fertilizer, viz., Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM) produced at plants under Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan) initiative. As on 23.07.2025, Rs. 54 crore MDA has been released for period 2023-24 to 2025-26.

(d) & (e): The Government of India is implementing Soil Health & Fertility Scheme. Under the Scheme, the Soil Health Cards (SHCs) are issued to farmers for providing information on fertility status of soils and recommends dosages of fertilizers, micro-nutrients, and macro-nutrients. Further, SHC recommends the dosage of fertilisers to be applied and the type of crop to be sown. Advisories are issued to farmers through Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and KrishiVigyan Kendra (KVK) based on the SHCs generated. 93,781 farmer'strainings, 6.80 lakh demonstrations, 7425 farmer's melas/campaigns on soil health cardrecommendations have been organized across the country. Agri-extension worker like Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Krishi Vigyan Kendras are also involved in knowledge dissemination to farmers about SHC recommendation. Further, under this scheme, the component of School soil health programme is also implemented in 1020 schools to inculcate importance of soil in young mind of students to ensure behavioral change. Under the programme, 1.32 lakh students are enrolled to undertake soil sampling, testing, generation of SHCs and educating farmers about judicious use of fertilizers as per SHC recommendations. Since, balanced use of fertilizers does not impact health; focus is on promotion of judicious use of fertilizers.
