

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 950 TO BE ANSWERED ON: 25.07.2025

PM-PRANAM Scheme

950: Shri Kripanath Mallah:

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

- (a) whether the PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness Generation, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth (PM-PRANAM) promotes the sustainable and balanced use of fertilisers by adopting alternate fertilisers and promoting natural and organic farming and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the use of natural fertilisers helps in boosting crop production without affecting soil quality, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), on June 28, 2023, approved the “PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness Generation, Nourishment, and Amelioration of Mother-Earth (PM-PRANAM).” This initiative aims to support the mass movement initiated by States and Union Territories (UTs) to preserve the health of Mother Earth through the promotion of sustainable and balanced fertilizer use, adoption of alternative fertilizers, promotion of organic farming, and implementation of resource conservation technologies.

All States/UTs are covered under the PM- PRANAM scheme. Under the PM-PRANAM scheme, provisions to provide incentives to States/UTs for reduction of consumption of chemical fertilizers (Urea, DAP, NPK, MOP) in a given financial year, compared to the average consumption over the previous three years, equivalent to 50% of the fertilizer subsidy saved.

(b) Natural fertilizers are organic substances derived from plant, animal, or mineral sources that supply essential nutrients to plants in a natural form. Unlike synthetic fertilizers, they decompose slowly, releasing nutrients gradually while improving soil structure and enhancing microbial activity over time. However, the imbalanced use of

chemical fertilizers, along with the continuous neglect of organic matter application, has led to multi-nutrient deficiencies and a gradual decline in soil health. Studies have shown that such imbalanced fertilizer use results in reduced crop yields and deterioration of soil fertility.

To address this, ICAR has developed improved and efficient strains of biofertilizers tailored to specific crops and soil types. Additionally, it has standardized technologies for preparing various natural fertilizers (organic manures) such as phosphocompost, vermicompost, bio-enriched compost, and municipal solid waste compost using different types of organic wastes, thereby promoting sustainable soil fertility management.
