

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 321* TO BE ANSWERED ON: 11.08.2023

Use of Long Standing Chemicals

321* SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIAYA:

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

- (a) the details of awareness programmes conducted in the State of Gujarat about the adverse consequences on soil health and environment due to regular and heavy use of long-standing chemicals;
- (b) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take any steps to discourage the indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to manage the use of funds spent on public awareness in the prescribed standard for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for companies engaged in chemical manufacturing across the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS AND HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 321* FOR 11.08.2023 REGARDING “USE OF LONG STANDING CHEMICALS” TABLED BY SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIAYA:

(a): In each of the districts of the Gujarat State, District Agriculture Officers and Village Level Workers (Gram Sevaks) have been encouraging the farmers for adopting Organic and Natural Farming practices in their villages by arranging different trainings in villages and they also guide them to decrease the use of long-standing chemical fertilizers for increasing crop-production in upcoming years. The Government of Gujarat has declared the Dang district as the “Natural Farming District” in which, minimum 75 farmers per village are encouraged to follow for Natural Farming practices. Different training programmes and demonstrations have been arranged by Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Team for encouraging farmers towards Natural Farming practices. For this task, concerned Officers are also appointed as Nodal Officers on duty for encouraging farmers towards Natural Farming practices.

(b): Government has been promoting organic farming using organic fertilizers/ manure and other organic inputs on priority in the country since 2015-16 through the schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER). Both the schemes stress 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 part of the scheme. Incentives to farmers for producing and using organic fertilizers/manure are inbuilt in these schemes as on-farm and off-farm organic inputs. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) is provided to the farmers for using organic inputs including organic manure.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) recommends soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources (green manure, bio-fertilizers, animal manure, etc.) of plant nutrients for judicious use of chemical fertilizers to improve soil health and environmental quality. In addition, split application and placement of fertilizers, use of slow releasing N-fertilizers and nitrification inhibitors, growing leguminous crops and use of Resource Conservation Technologies (RCTs) are also advocated. These measures reduce the indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers. ICAR has developed improved and efficient strains of bio-fertilizers specific to different crops and soil types with higher shelf life.

National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility has been implemented to assist States in promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micro nutrients in conjunction with organic manures & bio fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity.

Recently, the Government has approved Market Development Assistance (MDA) @ ₹ 1,500/MT to promote organic fertilizers i.e., manure produced at plants under GOBARdhan initiative covering different biogas/CBG support schemes/programmes of stakeholders Ministries/ Departments at the total outlay of ₹ 1,451.84 crore (FY 2023-24 to 2025-26). It will promote integrated nutrient management and reduce overuse of chemical fertilizers ensuring sustainability, soil health and better use efficiency of inputs.

Government has also approved PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness Generation, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth (PM-PRANAM) for three years (FY 2023-24 to 2025-26) to incentivize States/Union Territories to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers.

(c): Under the provisions of the Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, the Public Sector Undertakings engaged in manufacture of chemical fertilizers have been utilizing funds under Corporate Social Responsibility on activities specified in Schedule VII of the Act including conservation of natural resources and maintaining quality of soil, air and water.
