

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:128
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
PRODUCTION OF VERMICOMPOST
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the large-scale demand for compost-fertilizers from the US;
- (b) if so, whether a number of NGOs have offered to supply vermicompost produced from cattle-dung and urine;
- (c) whether any detailed project for producing vermicompost from cattle dung and urine from stray cattle collected together, have been submitted to the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to promote production and export of vermicompost?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

- (a): No large scale demand or compost fertilizers from U.S.A. have come to the notice of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- (b) & (c): No such specific proposals have been received.
- (d): Does not arise.
- (e): The Government of India is promoting the use of various sources of organic manures as supplementary source of nutrients to crops including vermicompost. The production of vermicompost is one of the activities in the centrally sponsored Technology mission on integrated development of horticulture in north-eastern states. The State Governments are also promoting the production of vermicompost under Macro management scheme. Besides, to facilitate the adequate availability of effective strains of earthworms for large scale production of vermicomposting on farmers' fields, vermiculture hatcheries are proposed to be set up with GOI support under National Project on Organic Farming after its approval.