

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:208

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006

TASK FORCE ON BALANCED USE OF FERTILIZER .

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government had set up a task force on balanced use of fertilizers;
- (b) if so, whether the said task force has since submitted its report to the Government;
- (c) if so, the details of the recommendations made;
- (d) whether the Government has discontinued the National Project on use and development of bio-fertilizers;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Union Government to promote the use of bio-fertilizers which is environment friendly and a cheaper source of plant nutrients?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 208 DUE FOR REPLY ON 7.8.2006.

(a)&(b): Sir, the Government had constituted a Task Force on Balanced Use of Fertilizers under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) and it has submitted its report in October 2005.

(c): The main recommendations made by the Task Force on Balanced Use of Fertilizers are as follows:-

- (i) Strengthening of soil testing laboratories under public/cooperatives/private sector
- (ii) Strengthening of fertilizer quality control laboratories for testing of fertilizer, organic manures and bio fertilizers, etc.
- (iii) Promotion of balanced and integrated nutrient management
- (iv) Subsidy on fertilizer to be nutrient based (N,P,K, Sulphur and micro nutrients), instead of existing product based
- (v) More Fertilizer products to be brought within the ambit of subsidy/concession.
- (vi) Incentive for production and promotion of efficient site specific customized fertilizers.
- (vii) Creation of a Central R&D Technology Transfer fund by charging 0.05% of total subsidy being paid on fertilizers for promoting R&D Technology Transfer activities.

(d)&(e): The scheme, National Project on Development and Use of Bio-fertilizers has been subsumed under a new Central Sector Scheme, National Project on Organic Farming since October 2004.

(f): In order to promote bio-fertilizer in the country, Government had provided a subsidy of Rs.20.00 lakhs for setting up of bio-fertilizer production units under the National Project on Development & Use of Bio-fertilizers during 9th Plan and 2002-03. Now under National Project on Organic Farming, the Government is providing credit linked back-ended subsidy for setting up of bio-fertilizer production units @ 25% of the project cost to a maximum of Rs.20.00 lakhs through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and also to State Governments/State Agencies/ICAR/SAU.

In order to ensure supply of quality bio-fertilizers, the Central Government has also notified the specifications and methods of analysis of 4 bio-fertilizers namely – Rhizobium, Azotobacter, Azospirillum, and Phosphate Solubilizing Bacteria, under the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985.