

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5218

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2010

ORGANIC FERTILISER

Antony Shri Anto

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of organic fertiliser usage promotion policy;
- (b) the details of policy for classification of organic fertilisers;
- (c) the status of new categories of organic fertilisers not currently included in the Fertiliser Control Order, 1985;
- (d) whether there is any provision for case by case approval for the new types of organic fertilisers;
- (e) the details of incentives/encouragement given to producers of organic fertilisers; and
- (f) the measures taken to promote organic fertiliser at par with the chemical fertilisers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

- (a): Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) under which organic fertiliser usage is an important component.
- (b): Under Fertiliser Control Order, 1985, organic fertilisers are defined as "Substances made up of one or more unprocessed material(s) of biological nature (plant/animal) and may include unprocessed mineral materials that have been altered through microbiological decomposition process". Two organic fertilisers viz: (a) City Waste Compost and (b) Vermicompost are covered under Fertiliser Control Order, 1985.
- (c) & (d): Besides these two organic fertilizers, there are many other organic resources of nutrients, which are being used by farmers, since time immemorial. Efforts have already been initiated to develop standards and testing protocols of such other important organic fertilisers to bring them under quality regulatory mechanism.
- (e): Incentives to organic fertiliser producers are provided under the following schemes:-
 - (i) Under the National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) financial assistance for setting up organic input units @ 25% of the total cost up to a maximum of Rs.40.00 lakh per unit for fruit/vegetable waste compost units and Rs.1.50 lakh per unit for vermi culture hatcheries is being provided as credit-linked back-ended subsidy through NABARD.
 - (ii) Under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) financial assistance is provided for setting up vermi compost units @ 50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs.30, 000/- per beneficiary.
- (f): Being low in nutrients, organic fertilisers are not comparable to chemical fertilisers. Under the National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility, assistance upto Rs.500/- per hectare is provided for promotion of organic manures.