

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:273

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2011

USE OF BIO-FERTILISERS

Joshi Dr. Murl Manohar;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

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

- (a) the details of the demand, supply and use of bio-fertilisers in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether any assessment has been made on the benefits of the use of bio-fertilizers on the soil health and agricultural production;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has formulated any action plan for encouraging the use of bio-fertilisers in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated and utilised in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 273 DUE FOR REPLY ON 15TH MARCH, 2011.

(a): In view of short shelf life, production of Bio-fertilizers is demand driven. A statement indicating State-wise production of bio-fertilizers during the last three years is enclosed at Annexure-I.

(b) & (c): Studies on benefits and usefulness of bio-fertilizers on agriculture production reveal that on an average 10-25% increase in production can be realised by use of bio-fertilizers. In terms of nutrients, bio-fertilizers can provide 10-20 kg N and can solublize 10-12 kg of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> per hectare per cropping season. Use of bio- fertilizers also improves soil health by helping other beneficial micro-organism to grow.

(d) & (e): Use of bio-fertilizers is being promoted through Integrated Nutrient Management, enhancing awareness and field demonstration.

Financial Support for establishment of bio-fertilizers production unit is also provided under the National Project on Organic Farming as back ended subsidy of 25%, restricted to Rs.40 lakh, through Commercial banks and NABARD.

Funds are allocated on basis of requirement of States. Details of financial assistance provided for setting up of such units state-wise during last three years and current year are at Annexure-II.