

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1384

ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011

BIO FERTILISERS

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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- fertilisers 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 STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a): In view of short shelf life, production of Bio-fertilizers is demand driven. Production of bio-fertilizers during last three years is as follows :-

Year Quantity Produced(in MT)

2008-09 25,065

2009-10 20,040

2010-11 37,997

(b) & (c): Studies on benefits and usefulness of bio-fertilizers on agriculture production indicate that in nutrient terms bio-fertilizers can provide 10-20 kg Nitrogen and can solubilize 10-12 kg of P₂O₅ per hectare per cropping season. Use of bio- fertilizers also improves soil health by helping other beneficial micro-organisms 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-I.