

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:542
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012
SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is implementing any scheme/programme for promoting balanced and judicious use of fertilisers in conjunction with organic manure on soil test basis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds released and utilized thereof for the last three years, State-wise; and
- (d) the other steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to boost agricultural production especially by alternating the use of chemical fertilizers with organic manure and ecological farming?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 542 DUE FOR REPLY ON 15.05.2012.

(a) to (d): Yes, Government is implementing the scheme namely "National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSH&F)" since 2008-09, to promote soil test based balanced use of fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures, green manure, soil amendments, micronutrient etc. Main components of NPMSH&F include setting up new / strengthening of static / Mobile soil testing laboratories, setting up new / strengthening of Fertilizer quality control laboratories and promoting use of organic manures, soil amendments and micronutrients. Besides NPMSH&F, use of organic manures, green manure, bio-fertilizers and ecological (organic) farming is also promoted through various other ongoing schemes such as National Project on Promotion of Organic Farming (NPOF), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) etc.

Government is encouraging use of soil amendments, micronutrients, bio- fertilizers, organic fertilizers, green manure and organic farming approaches to boost overall productivity. To ensure increased availability of compost and bio-fertilizers, financial assistance is provided for setting up of mechanized compost plants from vegetable and fruit waste and bio-fertilizer production units under NPOF. Financial assistance is provided for setting up of vermicompost production units, promotion of organic manures and organic farming through schemes such as NHM, HMNEH and RKVY. To ensure quality availability of organic fertilizers and bio-fertilizers, 3 organic fertilizers (City waste compost, vermicompost and castor de-oiled cake) and 5 bio- fertilizers (Rhizobium, Azotobacter, Azospirillum, Phosphate Solubilizing Bacteria and Mycorrhiza) have been incorporated in the Fertilizer (Control) Order 1985. State-wise details of total funds released under these schemes during last three years is annexed.