

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6298
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012
EXCESSIVE USE OF UREA
Scindia Smt. Yashodhara Rajee

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any evidence that the excessive use of urea in many States is resulting in turning the cultivable land into a barren land;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the remedial efforts made by the Government to promote bio-fertilizers in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No, Madam. There is no scientific evidence that excessive use of urea in any State is turning cultivable land into barren land. However, imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers with low addition of organic matter and lack of micro and secondary nutrients have resulted in nutrient deficiencies and deterioration of soil health in intensively cultivated areas.

(c) & (d): To maintain soil health and sustain agricultural yields, use of bio- fertilizers is being promoted through National Project on Organic Farming by providing financial support for establishment of bio-fertilizers production unit as back ended subsidy @25% of total financial outlay restricted to Rs.40.00 lakh through NABARD. Financial assistance of 50% of cost or Rs.100/- per ha (whichever is less) is provided to farmers for promotion of bio-fertilizers under Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM). In order to ensure availability of quality bio-fertilizers to the farmers, Central Government has notified five bio-fertilizers namely Rhizobium, Azotobacter, Azospirillum, Phosphate Solubilizing Bacteria and Mycorrhizal bio-fertilizer under Fertilizer(Control) Order (FCO), 1985