

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1587
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012
PROMOTION OF BIO-FERTILISERS
Pandey Saroj

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has prepared any action plan to promote the use of bio-fertilisers among farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the percentage increase registered in use of biofertilisers under the said action plan during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to launch an awareness programme amongst farmers to promote the use of biofertilisers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the plan is likely to be implemented in the country?

Answer

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

- (a): Government is already promoting use of bio-fertilisers through a Central Sector Scheme National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) for setting up of new or strengthening of existing bio-fertiliser production units, technology transfer and training etc. To ensure quality of bio-fertilisers - Rhizobium, Azotobacter, Azospirillum, Phosphate Solubilising Bacteria, Potash Mobilising Bacteria, Zinc Solubilising Bacteria and Mycorrhizal bio-fertilisers have been incorporated in Fertilizer Control Order, 1985.
- (b): The total production of bio-fertilisers was 20,111 Metric Tone (MT), 25,065 MT, 20,040 MT and 37,998 MT during 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively. The trend in use of bio-fertilizers is increasing but the total area covered under bio-fertilizers about 3% of total cultivable area in the country.
- (c) & (d): Awareness creation activities on use of bio-fertiliser is being addressed through training programme seminar and through advisory in package and practices for different crops under organic management. ICAR also imparts training, organizes field level demonstrations etc. to educate farmers on use of bio-fertilisers. During 2006- 12, a total 320 demonstrations were conducting on various crops in different States.
- (e): Application of bio-fertilisers to seed or soil is ongoing process to keep the soil healthy and to get healthy crop yield.