

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:170

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013

USE OF BIO FERTILIZERS

Semmalai Shri S. ;Singh Rajkumari Ratna

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched certain schemes in the recent past to promote use of bio-fertilizers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated during 11th and 12th Five year Plans under various schemes for the purpose;
- (c) the details of production of major crops achieved during the last one year using bio-fertilizers vis-a-vis chemical fertilizers in the country; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to popularise the use of bio-fertilizers amongst the farmers in the country?

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. 170 DUE FOR REPLY ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2013.

(a) to (d): Under National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), Government is promoting production of various organic inputs in the country including biofertilizers NPOF provides financial assistance of upto 25% of total financial outlay upto a ceiling of Rs.40 lakhs as credit linked back-ended subsidy for setting up Bio-fertilizers production units. Under the Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), assistance is provided for supply of Rhizobium culture / Phosphate Solubilizing Bacteria, Azotobacter, Azospirillum culture @50% cost of culture or Rs. 100/- per hectare whichever is less. Under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) on Pulses, including Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P), assistance for popularizing Rhizobium culture/Phosphate Solubilising bacteria is provided to the farmers under cluster demonstrations. Similarly, under Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millets Promotion (INSIMP) Programme, Phosphate Solubilising Bacteria/ Azotobacter culture is provided to the farmers as the part of technology demonstration. Details of funds allocated under NPOF, INSIMP and ISOPOM during 11th and 12th Five Year Plans are at Annexure-I.

Government has been advocating integrating use of chemical fertilizers and organic manures including biofertilizers for increasing production of major crops. All India Network Project on Soil Biodiversity-Biofertilizers (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) is implemented by ICAR for R&D on biofertilizers.

Government is also promoting use of bio-fertilizers as advisory in package of practice for all crops and as important component of Integrated Nutrient Management.

Besides, the Government of India has notified biofertilisers like Rhizobium, Azotobacter, Azospirillum, Phosphate Solubilising Bacteria, Acetobacter, Potash Mobilizing Bacteria and Zinc Solubilizing Bacteria under the Fertilizer Quality Control Order (FCO), 1985. As a result of popularization of biofertilisers under the NPOF, production of biofertilisers in the country has increased significantly.

Further, different human resource development programmes through Trainings on Organic Farming are also imparted through National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF) and its six Regional Centres of Organic Farming (RCOFs) throughout the country and information on importance, usage and quality control of biofertilisers is being disseminated. Other steps includes publication of Biannual Biofertiliser Newsletter, publication of various leaflets, booklets, brochures etc. Importance of biofertilisers is also broadcasted through Radio Jingles on FM channels.