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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
(2016-17)**

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS)**

[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Thirty Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on " Implementation of Policy on Promotion of City Compost " of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers)]

THIRTY-NINTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August, 2017/ Shravana, 1939 (Saka)

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*Presented to Lok Sabha on 10.08.2017
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 10.08.2017*



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
August, 2017/ Shravana, 1939 (Saka)**

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(ii)

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
(2016-17)**

Shri Anandrao Adsul - Chairperson

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri George Baker
3. Smt. Anju Bala
4. Shri B.N Chandrappa
5. Shri Sankar Prasad Datta
6. Smt. Veena Devi
7. Shri R. Dhruvanarayana
8. Shri Innocent
9. Shri K Ashok Kumar
10. Shri Chhedi Paswan
11. Smt. Kamla Devi Patle
12. Shri S. Rajendran
13. Shri Kotha Prabhakar Reddy
14. Dr. Kulamani Samal
15. Dr. Uma Saren
16. Dr. Krishna Pratap Singh
17. Shri Taslimuddin
18. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma
19. Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh
20. Shri Pankaj Chaudhary
21. Dr. (Smt.) Ratna De (Nag)

RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri Biswajit Daimary
23. Shri Prem Chand Gupta
24. Shri Sanjay Dattatraya Kakade
25. Shri Surendra Singh Nagar
26. Shri Narayan Lal Panchariya
27. Shri K Parasaran
28. Dr. Sanjay Sinh
29. Shri Abdul Wahab
30. Smt. Roopa Ganguly
- 31.* Vacant

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. | Shri Vinod Kumar Tripathi | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri A.K. Srivastava | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri R.C. Sharma | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Shri S. Vijayaraghavan | - | Senior Committee Assistant |

* Demise of Shri Palvai Govardhan Reddy, MP (RS) on 09.06.2017.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers (2016-17) having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Thirty Ninth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty Fourth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers (2016-17) on the subject 'Implementation of Policy on Promotion of City Compost' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers).

2. The Thirty Fourth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers was presented to Lok Sabha on 10.04.2017. The Action Taken replies of Government to all observations/recommendations contained in the Report were received on 25.07.2017. The Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers (2016-2017) considered and adopted this Report on Action Taken Replies at their sitting held on 09.08.2017.

3. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty Fourth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix-II.

4. For facility of reference and convenience, the comments of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the body of the Report.

New Delhi;
09 August, 2017
18 Shrawana, 1939 (Saka)

ANANDRAO ADSUL
Chairperson
Standing Committee on
Chemicals and Fertilizers

REPORT

CHAPTER - I

This Report of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers (2016-17) deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Thirty Fourth (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Implementation of Policy on Promotion of City Compost' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers)' which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 10.04.2017. In all, the Committee made 12 Observations / Recommendations in the Report.

1.2 The Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers) were requested to furnish replies to the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Thirty Fourth within three months from the date of presentation of the Report, i.e., by 11.07.2017. The Action Taken Replies of the Government in respect of all the 12 Observations / Recommendations contained in the Report have been received from the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers) vide their O.M. No.F.No.11015/15/2016-M&E (Vol.II), dated 25.07.2017. These Replies have examined and categorized as follows:-

- (i) Observations / Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government:-
Rec. Nos.1, 5, 6, 8, 10 ,11 and 12 (Total= 07)
This may be included in Chapter II of the Draft Report.
- (ii) Observations / Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:-
Rec. No.4 (Total=01)
This may be included in Chapter III of the Draft Report.
- (iii) Observations / Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee :-
Rec. Nos. 2 and 7 (Total=02)
This may be included in Chapter IV of the Draft Report.
- (iv) Observations / Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:-
Rec. Nos. 3 and 9 (Total=02)

These may be included in Chapter V of the Draft Report.

1.3. The Committee desire that the Action Taken Notes on the Observations / Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and Chapter-V of this Report should be furnished expeditiously.

1.4 The Committee will now deal with action taken by the Government on some of their Observations/Recommendations which still require reiteration or merit comments.

A. NEED TO TAKE MEASURES TO POPULARISE CITY COMPOST

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 2)

1.5 While waiting for the response of the farmers regarding new guidelines for selling compost in loose, the Committee had recommended as under:-

"The Committee note that for the period 2016-17, a provision of Rs. 15 Crore has been made for providing a subsidy of Rs. 1500/- per MT as Marketing Development Assistance to the marketing entities on sale of the City Compost which would be passed on to the farmers in terms of reduced MRP. However, at present, no direct incentive/subsidy on compost is being provided to the farmers. The Committee also note that, at the present price, farmers are not very keen to purchase compost, as by paying Rs. 50/- to Rs. 60/- extra farmers can purchase a bag of urea which has an immediate impact on the soil. Moreover, compost is considered as a soil conditioner and its impact on the soil would only be visible after continuous use for 2 to 3 years. The Committee were further informed that in order to make city compost cost effective some of the States like Andhra Pradesh are also providing subsidy of Rs. 1000/-. However, not many States are providing the Subsidy on city compost. There is also the problem of storage and in case it is not sold after some time it starts emitting foul smell. To overcome this problem and make the compost economical, the Committee note that the Department has issued the guidelines on 09.01.2017 for release of Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) on direct sale of city compost by compost manufacturers to farmers under the policy on promotion of city compost. This will allow compost manufacturers for direct sale to farmers which will bring down the cost of city compost.

The Committee would like to wait for the response of the farmers with regards to new guidelines for selling compost in loose. The Committee are however of the strong view that the city compost is quite overpriced as a reason of which farmers are reluctant to purchase it. Noting the action taken by the Department, the Committee recommend that the Department may vigorously take up matter with the State Governments and try to convince them to subsidise city compost as part of waste management scheme. The Department should also explore different ways and means of providing exemption from Central or State taxes/ levies on production and sale of city compost. Besides this, the Committee also recommend the Department of Fertilizers, to provide extra subsidy in hilly and difficult terrain like North eastern regions of the scheme. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard."

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

1.6 In reply to the afore-mentioned recommendation of the Committee, the Department of Fertilizers has stated as under:-

"At present, there is no such proposal to give exemption from Central or State taxes/levies on production of sale of City Compost. To lower the MRP, the Department of Fertilizers has been granting Market Development Assistance (MDA) of Rs. 1500 per MT for scaling up production and sale of City Compost. "

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

1.7 The Committee noted that at present price, farmers are not very keen to purchase compost as by paying Rs.50 to Rs.60 extra farmers can purchase bag of urea which had an immediate impact on soil. The Committee also noted that the Department had issued guidelines on 9.1.2017 for release of Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) on direct sale of city compost by compost manufacturers to farmers under the policy.

In their Action Taken reply the Department has Stated that at present there was no proposal to give exemption from central or State taxes/levels on production of sale of city compost.

The Committee are disturbed to note that inspite of their recommendation to subsidise compost which is overpriced and that is why a strong reason for reluctance of farmers to purchase the same, the Department of Fertilizers has done nothing in this regard. The Committee would therefore like to reiterate its earlier recommendation that the Department should vigorously take up the matter with state Government in this regard. The Committee would also like the Department to devise a policy of subsidy of compost in consultation with State Governments. The Committee would like to know the modalities made in this regard.

B. NEED FOR CENTRAL STATE CO-ORDINATION MECHANISM

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 3)

1.8 For overall success of the policy constitution of State Level Steering Committee is required, the Committee had recommended as under:-

"The Committee note that the Policy on Promotion of City Compost was notified on 10.02.2016 by the Department which has clearly defined roles of various Departments/agencies. The Department of Fertilizers will provide Market Development Assistance of Rs. 1500/MT to Marketer of City Compost. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare will carry out Information, Education & Communication (IEC) campaigns to educate farmers on the benefits of city compost. The Agricultural Extension Machineries including

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of ICAR will also make special efforts in this regard. The Ministry of Urban Development will take steps to increase setting up of compost plants across all States. The Committee also note that a Committee consisting of Joint Secretaries of Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Urban Development and Department of Agriculture has been set up to monitor and facilitate availability of adequate compost and to resolve any co-ordination relate issue. Considering the requirement of effective co-ordination for the successful implementation of the policy the Committee recommend that the Joint Committee should be upgraded to the level of Secretaries of the concerned Departments. As per the notification, State level Steering Committee for promotion of the scheme has also been provided but the Committee are dismayed to note that as on 06.01.2017, only seven states/UTs in the country have constituted these Steering Committee. The Committee during its study tour to Gangtok and Kozhikode also noted that the States of Sikkim and Kerala are yet to constitute the Steering Committees. The Committee are of the strong view that constitution of State Level Steering Committee is imperative for overall success of the policy and therefore, recommend the Department to pursue vigorously and convene regular meetings with those States who have not so far constituted the State level Committees. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard."

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

1.9 In reply to the afore-mentioned recommendation of the Committee, the Department of Fertilizers has stated as under:-

"The Department of Fertilizers has issued an O.M. dated 11.05.2016 for Constitution of State Level Steering Committee (**Annexure I**). Subsequently, two reminders dated 24.10.2016 (**Annexure II**) and 01.02.2017 (**Annexure III**). As per the letters received from States/UT, only in 11 States/UT viz. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Steering Committee for the promotion of City Compost policy have been constituted. However, a meeting at Secretary (Fertilizers) level has also been convened on 18.04.2017 with the representatives of Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DoAC&FW), Waste Management Association (WMA), ICAR and FAI in which she advised MoUD to expedite the matter."

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

1.10 Considering the requirement of effective coordination, the Committee recommended for upgrading the Committee of Joint Secretaries of concerned Ministries/ Departments to the level of Secretaries. Further, the Committee noted that many of the states had not constituted State level Steering Committee so far. The Committee, therefore, recommended the Department to pursue vigorously for constitution of Steering Committee in left out States.

The Department in their Action Taken Replies informed that they had been pursuing with the States for setting up of State level Steering Committee vigorously by reminding them regularly. As a result, 11 States had constituted Steering Committee

in their respective States. However, a meeting at Secretary (Fertilizers) level has also been convened on 18.04.2017 with the representatives of Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DoAC&FW), Waste Management Association (WMA), ICAR and FAI in which she advised MoUD to expedite the matter.

The Committee express their displeasure over the fact that only 11 states/UTs have constituted state level steering Committee so far despite the efforts made by the Department of Fertilizers. The Committee further observe that efforts are being made in consultation with other stake holders and Ministry of Urban Development has been advised to expedite the matter by Secretary (Fertilizers). While appreciating this, the Committee would therefore like to be apprised regularly about the outcome of the initiative taken by the Department of Fertilizers in this regard.

C. NEED TO INCLUDE CIPET TO RECYCLE PLASTIC WASTE

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 6)

1.11 Having expressed its opinion for utilizing the services and infrastructure of CIPET for recycling of plastic waste, the Committee had recommended as under:-

"The Committee note that at present, the Department of Fertilizers is implementing the policy of promotion of City compost, with the active participation of various agencies like fertilizer companies, ICAR, Krishi Vigyan Kendra etc. However, during the Study Visit of the Committee to Gangtok and Kozhikode, Central Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET) apprised the Committee about its contribution towards Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and technology and laboratories which are being effectively utilized for management of plastic waste. The Committee are of the view that utilizing the services and infrastructure of the CIPET would be beneficial in reduction of City garbage and recycling of Plastic Waste. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department of Fertilizers should come out with a proposal in coordination with the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and request the Ministry of Urban Development to take up the matter with CIPET for recycling of Plastic Waste. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard."

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

1.12 In reply to the afore-mentioned recommendation of the Committee, the Department of Fertilizers has stated as under:-

"MoHUA promotes the use of plastics in road construction. The Ministry of Road Transports and Highways has released an order approving the use of plastic waste in road construction after having carried out studies that revealed the use of waste plastics improved the desirable properties of bituminous mixes leading to

improved longevity and pavement performance. This has been implemented successfully in Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and a few other states. It has also been included as one of the parameters by which ULBs are evaluated in the Swachh Survekshan.

MoHUA had initiated talks with CIPET on the recycling of plastic waste using their technology, a prototype of which is available at CIPET, Guwahati. MoHUA has also been in talks with the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals for a pilot project at Guwahati."

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

1.13 The Committee noted that the technology developed by Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET) could be effectively utilized for management of plastic waste. The Committee, therefore, recommended the Department of Fertilizers to come out with a proposal in coordination with the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and request the Ministry of Urban Development to take up the matter with CIPET for recycling of plastic waste.

The Department in their Action Taken Replies informed that MoHUA promotes use of plastics in road construction and such projects have been successfully implemented in some states. Further, MoHUA had initiated taken with the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals for a pilot project at Guwahati using the technology of CIPET on the recycling of plastic waste.

While appreciating the efforts being made by MoHUA for using the technology developed by Control Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET) on the recycling of plastic waste, the Committee, recommend that the work on the pilot project-using the technology on the recycling of plastic waste should be initiated early and project may be completed in a time bound manner for its widespread use. The Committee also recommend that CIPET should proactively come forward in this regard.

D. STATUS OF CITY COMPOST PLANTS

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 7)

1.14 While emphasizing the need for opening of new compost plants as per the size of the state and population, the Committee had recommended as under:-

"The Committee note that the Ministry of Urban Development has been assigned the role of setting up of compost plants across all States. At present, 93 compost plants are functional and 283 plants are under construction/revival stage. The Committee observe that all the States do not have compost plants and also the number of compost plants are not as per the population and size of the State. It was

also informed to the Committee, that the Department is making efforts to open city compost manufacturing plants across the country and Rs. 7000 crore projects have been approved since the notification of the policy. By 2nd October 2019 one such plant shall be established in each city. Apart from this, Ministry of Urban Development is also facilitating the signing of agreement between compost manufacturers, fertilizer companies and Municipal Corporations for sale of compost under the policy. The Ministry is pursuing with various State Governments to revive defunct/ under utilised compost plants by providing subsidy under Swachh Bharat Mission.

The Committee during its study visit to Gangtok noted that Sikkim is yet to be tagged with BVFCL as there is no bulk generation of compost. This will be done as soon as the new compost plant is ready which is expected to be functional by March 2017. Further, by March 2017, 1-MT compost plant at the vegetable market to convert vegetable waste to compost under pilot project sponsored by ICLEI would be set up. However, the Committee were apprehensive about achieving the target by March, 2017, as no work has taken place at the ground level. The Committee during its study visit to Kozhikode (Kerala) also noted that its Kochi plant was not functional and Kozhikode plant which was functional with annual capacity of 6000 MTs only. The Committee are unhappy to note the sluggish approach in reviving/operationalizing the closed compost plants. The Committee therefore recommend that the Department of Fertilizers should vigorously take up this issue with the Ministry of Urban Development and State Governments and assure that opening of new compost plants as per the size of the State and population are accelerated and effective measures are taken up to make dysfunctional compost plants fully operational at the earliest in a time bound manner. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard."

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

1.15 In reply to the afore-mentioned recommendation of the Committee, the Department of Fertilizers has stated as under:-

"MoHUA provides 35% Viability Gap Funding for setting up new compost plants/reviving defunct plants. Compost plants dysfunctional due to lack of demand have been tagged with fertilizer companies to ensure assured market for the compost produced by these plants. MoHUA carries out periodic reviews with the states on the setting up of new plants and the revival of dysfunctional plants."

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

1.16 The Committee noted that Ministry of Urban Development had envisioned establishment of Compost plants in each city by 2nd October, 2017. The Committee had also observed that all the States did not had compost plants and also the number of compost plants were not as per the population and size of the States. Further, during their study visit to Gangtok (Sikkim) and Kozhikode (Kerala), the Committee also noted the sluggish approach in reviving/operationalizing the closed compost plants. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the Department of Fertilizers should vigorously take up the issue with the Ministry of Urban

Development and State Governments and assure that opening of new compost plants as per size of the State and population are accelerated and effective measures are taken up to make dysfunctional compost plants fully operational.

The Department in its Action Taken Replies informed that Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA) provides 35% viability Gap Funding for setting up new compost plants/ reviving dysfunctional plants. The Plants which were dysfunctional due to lack of demand had been tagged with Fertilizers Companies to ensure assured market for the compost produced by these plants. Periodic review in respect of setting up new plants and the revival of dysfunctional plants was done by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA).

The Committee are unhappy to note that the Department in its Action Taken Replies has only stated the existing position in regard to operationalization of the scheme but reply lacks detailing the concrete action taken by Department of fertilizers in regard to tagging of dysfunctional compost plants with fertilizer companies and outcome of various periodic reviews made by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA). The Committee, expect the Department to make some coordinating arrangement with the Ministry of Urban Development to make scheme successful in a time bound manner. The Committee would like to be apprised in this regard.

E. NEED TO MAKE CITY COMPOST NUTRIENT RICH

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 9)

1.17 While expressing the Department to explore making city compost more valuable by adding primary and micro nutrient to city compost, the Committee had recommended as under:-

" The Committee are of the strong view that excessive use of Chemical Fertilizers are leading to various life threatening diseases. Thus it is imperative that the Department should promote balanced use of enriched organic fertilizers. In this regard, the Committee were given to understand that the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has notified Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM) as Organic Fertilizer, which is an enriched organic fertilizer. The Committee would like the Department to explore making city compost more valuable by adding primary and micronutrients to city compost. The Committee would like to be apprised regarding the action taken in this regard. "

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

1.18 In reply to the afore-mentioned recommendation of the Committee, the Department of Fertilizers has stated as under:-

"In this regard, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DoAC&FW) has referred to the Technical Committee to provide the specification for enriched City Compost for notification under FCO."

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

1.19 The Committee noted that excessive use of Chemical Fertilizer were causing various life threatening diseases. So there was an urgent need to promote balanced usage of enriched organic fertilizers. The Committee, therefore, asked the Department to explore mixing of primary and micronutrients to city compost to make it more valuable. In this Action taken Reply the Department informed that the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare had referred the matter to the Technical Committee.

The Committee of Fertilizers in their Action Taken Replies informed that Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has referred to the Technical Committee to provide specification for enrich city compost.

The Committee, noted that the issue of making compost more valuable by adding primary and micronutrients have been referred to Technical Committee for taking appropriate action. The Committee recommend that efforts be made to complete the process expeditiously by the end of August, 2017. The Committee would like to be informed in this regard.

F. NEED TO CONNECT MASSES THROUGH MULTI MEDIA CAMPAIGN

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 10)

1.20 While recommending the Department to use simple language in the advertisements which can be understood by the farmers, the Committee had recommended as under:-

"The Committee note that an advertisement on promotion of use of City Compost in the daily local newspapers has been published by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD). The information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign material is also being provided for publicity through audio spot in Kissan Vani on FM Radio Network of AIR, publicity through video spot in Krishi Darshan & DD Kisan and print advertisement in newspapers. The MoUD has launched multi-media campaign i.e. 6 such short films of 30 seconds each targeted at various segments of the society including farmers, students, housewives, etc with a view to increase in the demand for compost in the market. In this regard, the Committee desire the Department to use simple language in the advertisements which is easily comprehensible by the farmers so as to connect them with the product. The Committee would also recommend the Department to come out with a promotional campaign/advertisement demonstrating significance of city compost in front of the Gram Sabha at the village level. Such an advertisement should also focus as to how the unemployed youth can be gainfully employed by venturing into the business of

producing city compost. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

1.21 In reply to the afore-mentioned recommendation of the Committee, the Department of Fertilizers has stated as under :-

" Ministry of Housing & Urban affairs has launched a new multi-media campaign on waste to compost, titled "Compost Banao, Compost Apnao". The national campaign is currently running on TV and Radio. The Ministry has produced creatives and disseminated it to Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) for dissemination through their field machinery, Kissan channels, etc."

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

1.22 The Committee noted that the Government through various means of communication advertise for promotion and use of city compost. The Committee recommended that the Department to ensure that simple language was used in advertisement and come out with the promotional campaign demonstrating significance of city compost in front of the Gram Sabha at the village level. Such an advertisement should also focus as to how the unemployed youth can be gainfully employed by venturing into the business of producing city compost.

The Department in its Action Taken Replies informed that MoHRUA have launched a new multi-media campaign on waste to compost, titled "Compost Banao, Compost Apnao" which was being run on TV and Radio. Further, certain other creative are discriminated through field machinery and Kissan Channels and Department of Fertilizers, Cooperation and Farmers Welfares.

While appreciating the various steps taken by the Government for promotion and use of city compost by print and electronic media, the Committee find that the Department has not made any comments regarding the gainful employment of unemployed youth at village level. The Committee would therefore, like to know from the Department how they are going to devise the action plan to gainfully utilise unemployed youth in garbage collection and compost making.

G. MEASURES TO IMPROVE MARKETING OF CITY COMPOST

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 11)

1.23 There is urgent need for popularizing the use of City Compost amongst farmers, the Committee had recommended as under:-

"The Committee note that Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has taken up various steps for the promotion of City Compost among farmers. ICAR is carrying out field demonstrations. Advisory has been issued to the State Governments to promote the use of City Compost and to take quality control measures under FCO, 1985 to ensure the supply of good quality city compost to the farmers. However, the Committee during its study visit to Gangtok and Kozhikode observe that there is lack of awareness amongst the farmers and they were reluctant to use city compost in their fields. The Committee are of the view that the Department has to do more to popularize the use of city compost among the farmers. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should come out with some innovative promotional schemes like one bag of compost free on purchase of urea, etc. for popularizing the use of city compost. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives undertaken by them in this regard."

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

1.24 In reply to the afore-mentioned recommendation of the Committee, the Department of Fertilizers has stated as under:-

"For popularizing city compost, Fertilizer companies are adopting villages for use of city compost to prove its efficacy in improving crop yield which will encourage farmers to adopt its use along with chemical fertilizers. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) is carrying out field demonstrations to show effectiveness of the usage of city compost. The departments are also coming up with multi media campaigns to increase awareness about compost amongst famers."

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

1.25 The Committee during their study visit to Gangtok (Sikkim) and Kozhikode (Kerala) noted that there was lack of awareness amongst the farmers in regard to compost fertilizer and its efficacy in their fields. The Committee, therefore, recommended the Department to come out with innovative promotional scheme/strategy for popularizing the use of city compost.

In this regard, the Department had informed that use of multimedia was being taken to popularize use of city compost fertilizer. Further, fertilizer companies were adopting villages for use of City Compost to prove its efficiency in crop yield, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers welfare was also conducting field demonstrations to show effectiveness of the usage of City Compost.

While noting the efforts made by the fertilizer companies by adopting villages for use of city compost and its promotion through multi media campaigns, the Committee observe that the reply of the Government is silent on the recommendation of the Committee to promote one bag of free compost on purchase of urea. The Committee would therefore reiterate this recommendation to provide

one free bag of compost on purchase of urea. The Committee would like to have a reply from the Government in this regard at the earliest.

H. NEED TO EDUCATE FARMERS FOR CITY COMPOST

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 12)

1.26 Setting up of City Compost Plants in big cities for the success of the scheme, the Committee had recommended as under:-

"The Committee note that the fertilizer companies have adopted 100 villages for carrying out activities for promotion/demonstration and use of City Compost. These activities include arranging farmers' seminars, visit of local agricultural Officials to create awareness among farmers with active participation of Department of Agriculture, etc. The Committee, however, are disappointed to note that most of the villages adopted by the companies are concentrated in 12 states only i.e. Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Assam, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh. There are 22 companies involved in marketing of city compost, whereas, out of these 22 companies, only 10 companies have adopted the villages for promotion of the use of city compost. The Committee during its study visit to Gangtok also noted that BVFCL has not adopted any village in Sikkim for promotion/demonstration of the usage of City Compost. Moreover, at Kozhikode the Committee observe that FACT is tagged to cities of Kozhikode and Kochi and is carrying out demonstration in 25 acres of land free of cost in the farmers' fields and explaining the benefits of using of compost.

Noting the importance of promotion and demonstration of use of city compost, the Committee recommend the Department to issue strict instructions to all the fertilizer companies who have not adopted villages, to adopt villages immediately and that efforts made by the fertilizer companies in carrying out field demonstrations are accelerated.

The Committee note that Department of Fertilizers has requested Department of Public Enterprises to take appropriate action regarding the use of city compost in PSUs and Central/State Government Departments and agencies. The Committee, therefore, hope that promotion of city compost by setting up compost plants in big township of PSUs and residential complexes of Central and State Government shall be taken up at the earliest. The Committee would like to be apprised regarding the progress made in this regard."

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

1.27 In reply to the afore-mentioned recommendation of the Committee, the Department of Fertilizers has stated as under:-

"So far, 22 Fertilizer marketing companies have adopted about 372 villages during 2016-17 and 2017-18 for carrying out activities for promotion/demonstration and use of City Compost covering 17 States viz. Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Assam, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal, Odisha and Goa."

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

1.28 The Committee had noted that most of the villages adopted by the companies were concentrated in 12 States only and out of 22 fertilizer marketing companies, only 10 had adopted villages for promotion/demonstration of city compost. Therefore, the Committee recommended the Department to issue instructions to those companies who had not adopted villages, to adopt immediately and efforts in carrying out field demonstrations are accelerated. The Committee also hoped for setting up compost plants in big township of PSUs and residential complexes of Central and State Governments for promotion of city compost.

The Department in their Action Taken Replies informed that 22 fertilizer marketing companies have adopted about 372 villages for the years 2016-17 and 2017-18 for promotion/demonstration and use of city compost covering 17 States in the country.

The Committee have noted that the Department has enhanced its capacity for reaching out to 17 States for adopting villages for promotion of city compost. However, covering of all the States in the country for adoption of villages could not be achieved. Further, the Department is silent on the recommendation of the Committee regarding efforts made for setting up compost plants in big township of PSUs and residential complexes of Central & State Governments.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that all out efforts are made by Department to ensure that Fertilizer Marketing Companies adopt villages pan India for promotion/demonstration of city compost in a time bound manner.

The Committee also hope that the Department makes concerted effort in reaching out and coordinating with the concerned Authorities for setting up compost plants in big township of PSUs and residential complexes of Central and State Governments. The Committee would like to be apprised in this regard.

CHAPTER – II

OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1

POLICY ON PROMOTION OF CITY COMPOST

The Committee note that Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) is a big challenge being faced by the Government as it degrades the environment. According to the Report of Task Force on Wastes to Energy, published by erstwhile Planning Commission in May 2014, the total quantity of waste currently (2014) handled in the urban areas in the country is estimated to be 169,650 metric tonne each day i.e. about 62 million tonne per year out of which merely 19% of the total waste generated is currently treated. The remaining unprocessed waste finds its way to landfills, dumpsites, drains etc., causing environmental problems like production of greenhouse gases and toxic waste. Thus, in order to process and use city waste as compost, the Government of India has notified the policy on promotion on city compost as a component of “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan”. The Committee also note that composting will not only reduce the volume of waste to landfill/ dumpsite by converting the waste into useful by-products but also prevents production of harmful greenhouse gases (especially methane) and toxic material that pollutes groundwater apart from polluting the environment. This policy aims to incentivize the processing of waste into compost and it is targeted that 100% of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) will be processed by the end of mission period in October, 2019, which will reduce significantly the environmental problems. Compost would also be useful in improving the carbon content in the soil and the policy envisages selling of compost to farmers through the PSU’s fertilizer companies. It has also been observed by the Committee that the installed capacity to process waste into compost is 10 LMT whereas the compost production at present is around 16000 MT per annum.

Noting the above, the Committee appreciate the Government for bringing out the policy on promotion of City Compost to overcome the challenge of waste management. The Committee are of the view, that if the policy is implemented in an effective manner, it can achieve twin benefits, namely management of waste as well as improving the carbon content in the soil. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should review the progress of the policy on City Compost at regular intervals so as to remove hurdles being faced by concerned agencies and effectively implement the scheme and achieve the targets set on the policy. The Committee would like to know the time bound action being taken by the Department regarding the scheme.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Department of Fertilizers regularly reviews the progress in City Compost policy by organising meetings at regular intervals with the representatives of all Fertilizers marketing companies, compost manufacturers, Fertilizers Association of India (FAI), Waste Management Association (WMA), Ministry of Urban Development, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DoAC&FW) and ICAR. The Department of Fertilizers is continuously working for the effective implementation of the City Compost policy. A joint Committee of Joint Secretaries of Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Urban Development and Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare has also been set up to monitor and facilitate availability of adequate quantity of City Compost at terms mutually agreeable between compost manufacturers and Fertilizer Marketing

companies. The Committee will also be authorised to resolve any co-ordination related issue that may arise. Presently, 7 meetings of Joint Committee have also been convened.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 5

SEGREGATION OF WASTE

The Committee note that segregation of waste at the household level is very crucial for effective implementation of the policy on city compost as the quality of compost depends on quality of segregation by individual household. The Committee, however, are of the view that at present, urban households are not very much aware about the segregation of waste. There is a pressing need for training and awareness generation of the households. In this regard, the Committee note that the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has launched a two-bin system, wherein, tow colored bins have been distributed to households in all wards to encourage the segregation of wet and dry waste. Further, the same is being propagated in public areas as well. The vehicles collecting garbage have also been segregated in the same way. The Committee desire that the Department of Fertilizers along with Ministry of Urban Development should study the effectiveness of two-bin scheme for segregation of waste as implemented by Hyderabad Municipal Corporation and see the feasibility of replicating it with or without modification in other States as well.

Further, the Committee are of the view that the involvement of the Informal sector waste collectors / rag pickers/ kabariwala (scrap dealer) etc., would improve waste collection and segregation activities and this in turn will give them employment. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department of Fertilizers to impress upon the State Government/ ULBs/ Municipalities to utilize the services of unemployed youth in garbage collection which will not only improve garbage collection and segregation but keep the city clean besides providing them employment.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

MoHUA recently has launched a campaign in all cities for the segregation of waste. Apart from this segregation has also been given weightage as a part of the City Ranking Survey (Swachh Survekshan) whenerin ULBs are ranked on various parameters related to sanitation and solid waste management. MoHUA has through DGS&D's GeM portal facilitated the procurement of 2 bins and compartmentalised vehicles for the segregation of waste for all ULBs thereby helping in the segregation initiatives at the City level.

MoHUA has also been encouraging ULBs to mainstream rag pickers into the formal system on the lines of the Pune model through various capacity building workshops held at the State and City level. Mainstreaming of rag pickers is also one of the parameters by which ULBs are evaluated in the Swachh Survekshan.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6

NEED TO INCLUDE CIPET TO RECYCLE PLASTIC WASTE

The Committee note that at present, the Department of Fertilizers is implementing the policy of promotion of City compost, with the active participation of various agencies like fertilizer companies, ICAR, Krishi Vigyan Kendra etc. However, during the Study Visit of the Committee to Gangtok and Kozhikode, Central Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET) apprised the Committee about its contribution towards Swachh

Bharat Abhiyan and technology and laboratories which are being effectively utilized for management of plastic waste. The Committee are of the view that utilizing the services and infrastructure of the CIPET would be beneficial in reduction of City garbage and recycling of Plastic Waste. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department of Fertilizers should come out with a proposal in coordination with the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and request the Ministry of Urban Development to take up the matter with CIPET for recycling of Plastic Waste. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

MoHUA promotes the use of plastics in road construction. The Ministry of Road Transports and Highways has released an order approving the use of plastic waste in road construction after having carried out studies that revealed the use of waste plastics improved the desirable properties of bituminous mixes leading to improved longevity and pavement performance. This has been implemented successfully in Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and a few other states. It has also been included as one of the parameters by which ULBs are evaluated in the Swachh Survekshan.

MoHUA had initiated talks with CIPET on the recycling of plastic waste using their technology, a prototype of which is available at CIPET, Guwahati. MoHUA has also been in talks with the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals for a pilot project at Guwahati.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

(Please see Para No.1.13 of Chapter- I of the Report)

RECOMMENDATION NO. 8

MARKETING OF CITY COMPOST BY FERTILIZER COMPANIES

The Committee note that marketing and promotion of city compost is to be done through the existing fertilizer companies through their dealer's network. The mechanism, extent and mode of implementation of such co-marketing depend on levels of compost production, demand generation and other relevant factors as decided by the Department of Fertilizers. For co-marketing of City Compost, the tagging of Cities with fertilizer marketing companies for the purpose of proper utilisation of City Compost produced in the cities has been completed.

As per the data regarding the production and marketing of City Compost obtained from the City Compost manufacturers and marketing companies, most of the fertilizer marketing companies have failed to achieve their marketing target during the period April to August in year 2016-17. Some of the companies i.e. Shriram Fertilizers, Indogulf, MCFL, Greenstar/SPIC, IPL, PPL, KFCL, MFL, NFL, RCF etc., have done nil marketing of city compost in last few months. The Committee further note that only 14 States have been tagged with Fertilizers companies for the implementation of schemes. Even in these States, most of the fertilizer companies have no marketing presence. The Committee during its study visit to Gangtok also observed that BVFCL has no marketing office or presence in the State of Sikkim and the Company is finding it difficult to implement the policy on promotion of city compost in the region. Similarly, the Committee are dismayed to note that in only four North Eastern States viz. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, and Meghalaya marketing of compost is done that too through their own channel, while other North Eastern States are yet to start the city compost unit. As a reason, of which, there is a lack of availability of city compost in the region.

The Committee are of the view that proper marketing of the city compost is vital for effective implementation of the schemes. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department may take proactive measures and ensure that tagging of Fertilizers companies with States should be meaningful and companies which do not have marketing network in the State be advised to market the City Compost produced in the State by developing the marketing network. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives undertaken by them in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

In marketing of City Compost, 22 Fertilizers marketing companies are involved. During 2016-17, the sales of City Compost by Fertilizers marketing companies was about 96584 MT. During April, 2017 to June, 2017, Fertilizers marketing companies have co-marketed about 29102 MT of City Compost. The Department of Fertilizers has issued an O.M. dated 20th April, 2017 to all 22 Fertilizers marketing companies of City Compost stated that the existing marketing arrangement adopted by the fertilizer marketing companies for 2016-17 for co-marketing of City Compost will continue further and Fertilizer companies have been requested to take up co-marketing of City Compost along with chemical fertilizers more vigorously this year (2017-18). As per tagging orders dated 04.04.2016 and 24.05.2016, all States/UTs have been tagged with Fertilizers companies for the implementation of City Compost policy.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 10

NEED TO CONNECT MASSES THROUGH MULTI MEDIA CAMPAIGN

The Committee note that an advertisement on promotion of use of City Compost in the daily local newspapers has been published by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD). The information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign material is also being provided for publicity through audio spot in Kissan Vani on FM Radio Network of AIR, publicity through video spot in Krishi Darshan & DD Kisan and print advertisement in newspapers. The MoUD has launched multi-media campaign i.e. 6 such short films of 30 seconds each targeted at various segments of the society including farmers, students, housewives, etc with a view to increase in the demand for compost in the market. In this regard, the Committee desire the Department to use simple language in the advertisements which is easily comprehensible by the farmers so as to connect them with the product. The Committee would also recommend the Department to come out with a promotional campaign/advertisement demonstrating significance of city compost in front of the Gram Sabha at the village level. Such an advertisement should also focus as to how the unemployed youth can be gainfully employed by venturing into the business of producing city compost. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Ministry of Housing & Urban affairs has launched a new multi-media campaign on waste to compost, titled "Compost Banao, Compost Apnao". The national campaign is currently running on TV and Radio. The Ministry has produced creatives and disseminated it to Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) for dissemination through their field machinery, Kissan channels, etc.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

(Please see Para No.1.22 of Chapter- I of the Report)

RECOMMENDATION NO. 11

MEASURES TO IMPROVE MARKETING OF CITY COMPOST

The Committee note that Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has taken up various steps for the promotion of City Compost among farmers. ICAR is carrying out field demonstrations. Advisory has been issued to the State Governments to promote the use of City Compost and to take quality control measures under FCO, 1985 to ensure the supply of good quality city compost to the farmers. However, the Committee during its study visit to Gangtok and Kozhikode observe that there is lack of awareness amongst the farmers and they were reluctant to use city compost in their fields. The Committee are of the view that the Department has to do more to popularize the use of city compost among the farmers. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should come out with some innovative promotional schemes like one bag of compost free on purchase of urea, etc. for popularizing the use of city compost. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives undertaken by them in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

For popularizing city compost, Fertilizer companies are adopting villages for use of city compost to prove its efficacy in improving crop yield which will encourage farmers to adopt its use along with chemical fertilisers. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) is carrying out field demonstrations to show effectiveness of the usage of city compost. The departments are also coming up with multi media campaigns to increase awareness about compost amongst famers.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

(Please see Para No.1.25 of Chapter- I of the Report)

RECOMMENDATION NO. 12

NEED TO EDUCATE FARMERS FOR CITY COMPOST

The Committee note that the fertilizer companies have adopted 100 villages for carrying out activities for promotion/demonstration and use of City Compost. These activities include arranging farmers' seminars, visit of local agricultural Officials to create awareness among farmers with active participation of Department of Agriculture, etc. The Committee, however, are disappointed to note that most of the villages adopted by the companies are concentrated in 12 states only i.e. Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Assam, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh. There are 22 companies involved in marketing of city compost, whereas, out of these 22 companies, only 10 companies have adopted the villages for promotion of the use of city compost. The Committee during its study visit to Gangtok also noted that BVFCL has not adopted any village in Sikkim for promotion/demonstration of the usage of City Compost. Moreover, at Kozhikode the Committee observe that FACT is tagged to cities of Kozhikode and Kochi and is carrying out demonstration in 25 acres of land free of cost in the farmers' fields and explaining the benefits of using of compost.

Noting the importance of promotion and demonstration of use of city compost, the Committee recommend the Department to issue strict instructions to all the fertilizer companies who have not adopted villages, to adopt villages immediately and that efforts made by the fertilizer companies in carrying out field demonstrations are accelerated.

The Committee note that Department of Fertilizers has requested Department of Public Enterprises to take appropriate action regarding the use of city compost in PSUs and Central/State Government Departments and agencies. The Committee, therefore, hope that promotion of city compost by setting up compost plants in big township of PSUs and residential complexes of Central and State Government shall be taken up at the earliest. The Committee would like to be apprised regarding the progress made in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

So far, 22 Fertilizer marketing companies have adopted about 372 villages during 2016-17 and 2017-18 for carrying out activities for promotion/demonstration and use of City Compost covering 17 States viz. Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Assam, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal, Odisha and Goa.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

(Please see Para No.1.28 of Chapter- I of the Report)

CHAPTER – III

OBSERVATION / RECOMMENDATION WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4

NEED TO DEVELOP A MODEL STATE FOR PROMOTION OF POLICY ON CITY COMPOST

The Committee, further note that after the notification of the policy, the Department has set a target of opening up of at least one compost plant in each city by 2nd October, 2019. The Committee strongly feel that a concerted and coordinated efforts is required to implement the policy in a large country like India which has 4000 towns with 500 towns having population of more than 1 lakh. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department, as a pilot project should at least try to develop one State as a model State quickly, so that it is emulated by the other States. The Committee desire to be fully apprised of the progress in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

A number of States such as Karnataka, Maharashtra, etc. have initiated their own schemes for the promotion of city compost. The best practices from various states will be documented and disseminated for replication.

CHAPTER – IV

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2

NEED TO TAKE MEASURES TO POPULARISE CITY COMPOST

The Committee note that for the period 2016-17, a provision of Rs. 15 Crore has been made for providing a subsidy of Rs. 1500/- per MT as Marketing Development Assistance to the marketing entities on sale of the City Compost which would be passed on to the farmers in terms of reduced MRP. However, at present, no direct incentive/subsidy on compost is being provided to the farmers. The Committee also note that, at the present price, farmers are not very keen to purchase compost, as by paying Rs. 50/- to Rs. 60/- extra farmers can purchase a bag of urea which has an immediate impact on the soil. Moreover, compost is considered as a soil conditioner and its impact on the soil would only be visible after continuous use for 2 to 3 years. The Committee were further informed that in order to make city compost cost effective some of the States like Andhra Pradesh are also providing subsidy of Rs. 1000/-. However, not many States are providing the Subsidy on city compost. There is also the problem of storage and in case it is not sold after some time it starts emitting foul smell. To overcome this problem and make the compost economical, the Committee note that the Department has issued the guidelines on 09.01.2017 for release of Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) on direct sale of city compost by compost manufacturers to farmers under the policy on promotion of city compost. This will allow compost manufacturers for direct sale to farmers which will bring down the cost of city compost.

The Committee would like to wait for the response of the farmers with regards to new guidelines for selling compost in loose. The Committee are however of the strong view that the city compost is quite overpriced as a reason of which farmers are reluctant to purchase it. Noting the action taken by the Department, the Committee recommend that the Department may vigorously take up matter with the State Governments and try to convince them to subsidise city compost as part of waste management scheme. The Department should also explore different ways and means of providing exemption from Central or State taxes/ levies on production and sale of city compost. Besides this, the Committee also recommend the Department of Fertilizers, to provide extra subsidy in hilly and difficult terrain like North eastern regions of the scheme. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

At present, there is no such proposal to give exemption from Central or State taxes/levies on production of sale of City Compost. To lower the MRP, the Department of Fertilizers has been granting Market Development Assistance (MDA) of Rs. 1500 per MT for scaling up production and sale of City Compost.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

(Please see Para No.1.7 of Chapter- I of the Report)

RECOMMENDATION NO. 7

STATUS OF CITY COMPOST PLANTS

The Committee note that the Ministry of Urban Development has been assigned the role of setting up of compost plants across all States. At present, 93 compost plants are functional and 283 plants are under construction/revival stage. The Committee observe that all the States do not have compost plants and also the number of compost plants are not as per the population and size of the State. It was also informed to the Committee, that the Department is making efforts to open city compost manufacturing plants across the country and Rs. 7000 crore projects have been approved since the notification of the policy. By 2nd October 2019 one such plant shall be established in each city. Apart from this, Ministry of Urban Development is also facilitating the signing of agreement between compost manufacturers, fertilizer companies and Municipal Corporations for sale of compost under the policy. The Ministry is pursuing with various State Governments to revive defunct/ under utilised compost plants by providing subsidy under Swachh Bharat Mission.

The Committee during its study visit to Gangtok noted that Sikkim is yet to be tagged with BVFCL as there is no bulk generation of compost. This will be done as soon as the new compost plant is ready which is expected to be functional by March 2017. Further, by March 2017, 1-MT compost plant at the vegetable market to convert vegetable waste to compost under pilot project sponsored by ICLEI would be set up. However, the Committee were apprehensive about achieving the target by March, 2017, as no work has taken place at the ground level. The Committee during its study visit to Kozhikode (Kerala) also noted that its Kochi plant was not functional and Kozhikode plant which was functional with annual capacity of 6000 MTs only. The Committee are unhappy to note the sluggish approach in reviving/operationalizing the closed compost plants. The Committee therefore recommend that the Department of Fertilizers should vigorously take up this issue with the Ministry of Urban Development and State Governments and assure that opening of new compost plants as per the size of the State and population are accelerated and effective measures are taken up to make dysfunctional compost plants fully operational at the earliest in a time bound manner. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

MoHUA provides 35% Viability Gap Funding for setting up new compost plants/reviving defunct plants. Compost plants dysfunctional due to lack of demand have been tagged with fertilizer companies to ensure assured market for the compost produced by these plants. MoHUA carries out periodic reviews with the states on the setting up of new plants and the revival of dysfunctional plants.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

(Please see Para No.1.16 of Chapter- I of the Report)

CHAPTER - V

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3

NEED FOR CENTRAL STATE CO-ORDINATION MECHANISM

The Committee note that the Policy on Promotion of City Compost was notified on 10.02.2016 by the Department which has clearly defined roles of various Departments/agencies. The Department of Fertilizers will provide Market Development Assistance of Rs. 1500/MT to Marketer of City Compost. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare will carry out Information, Education & Communication (IEC) campaigns to educate farmers on the benefits of city compost. The Agricultural Extension Machineries including Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of ICAR will also make special efforts in this regard. The Ministry of Urban Development will take steps to increase setting up of compost plants across all States. The Committee also note that a Committee consisting of Joint Secretaries of Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Urban Development and Department of Agriculture has been set up to monitor and facilitate availability of adequate compost and to resolve any co-ordination relate issue. Considering the requirement of effective co-ordination for the successful implementation of the policy the Committee recommend that the Joint Committee should be upgraded to the level of Secretaries of the concerned Departments. As per the notification, State level Steering Committee for promotion of the scheme has also been provided but the Committee are dismayed to note that as on 06.01.2017, only seven states/UTs in the country have constituted these Steering Committee. The Committee during its study tour to Gangtok and Kozhikode also noted that the States of Sikkim and Kerala are yet to constitute the Steering Committees. The Committee are of the strong view that constitution of State Level Steering Committee is imperative for overall success of the policy and therefore, recommend the Department to pursue vigorously and convene regular meetings with those States who have not so far constituted the State level Committees. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Department of Fertilizers has issued an O.M. dated 11.05.2016 for Constitution of State Level Steering Committee (**Annexure I**). Subsequently, two reminders dated 24.10.2016 (**Annexure II**) and 01.02.2017 (**Annexure III**). As per the letters received from States/UT, only in 11 States/UT viz. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Steering Committee for the promotion of City Compost policy have been constituted. However, a meeting at Secretary (Fertilizers) level has also been convened on 18.04.2017 with the representatives of Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DoAC&FW), Waste Management Association (WMA), ICAR and FAI in which she advised MoUD to expedite the matter.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

(Please see Para No.1.10 of Chapter- I of the Report)

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 9)

NEED TO MAKE CITY COMPOST NUTRIENT RICH

The Committee are of the strong view that excessive use of Chemical Fertilizers are leading to various life threatening diseases. Thus it is imperative that the Department should promote balanced use of enriched organic fertilizers. In this regard, the Committee were given to understand that the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has notified Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM) as Organic Fertilizer, which is an enriched organic fertilizer. The Committee would like the Department to explore making city compost more valuable by adding primary and micronutrients to city compost. The Committee would like to be apprised regarding the action taken in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

In this regard, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DoAC&FW) has referred to the Technical Committee to provide the specification for enriched City Compost for notification under FCO.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

(Please see Para No.1.19 of Chapter- I of the Report)

New Delhi;
09 August, 2017
18 Shravana, 1939 (Saka)

ANANDRAO ADSUL
Chairperson
Standing Committee on
Chemicals and Fertilizers

**MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH SITTING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
(2016-17)**

The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 09 August, 2017 from 1500 hrs. to 1540 hrs. in Room No. 139, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Anandrao Adsul - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri George Baker
3. Smt. Anju Bala
4. Smt. Veena Devi
5. Shri K. Ashok Kumar
6. Smt. Kamla Devi Patle
7. Shri S. Rajendran
8. Dr. Kulamani Samal
9. Dr. Ratna De (Nag)

RAJYA SABHA

10. Shri Narayan Lal Panchariya

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Vinod Kumar Tripathi - Joint Secretary
2. Shri A. K. Srivastava - Director
3. Shri R. C. Sharma - Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee.
3. The Committee thereafter took up for consideration the following Draft Action Taken Reports on :-
 - (i) Demands for Grants 2017-18' of Department of Fertilizers;
 - (ii) Demands for Grants 2017-18' of Department of Pharmaceuticals;
 - (iii) Demands for Grants 2017-18' of Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals; and
 - (iv) Implementation of policy on promotion of city compost of Department of Fertilizers.
4. After some deliberations the Draft Action Taken Reports were adopted by the Committee without any changes. The Committee authorised the Chairperson to make consequential changes, if any, arising out of the factual verification of the Action Taken Reports by the Department of Fertilizers, Department of Pharmaceuticals and Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
5. The Committee thereafter decided to hold its next meeting on 23rd August, 2017.

The Committee then adjourned.

Appendix - II

(Vide Para 3 of the Introduction)

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE THIRTY-FOURTH REPORT (SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (2016-17) ON THE SUBJECT REPORT ON 'IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY ON PROMOTION OF CITY COMPOST' OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS).'

I	Total No. of Recommendations	12
II	Observations / Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government: (Vide Recommendation Nos. 1, 5, 6, 8, 10 ,11 and 12)	7
Percentage of Total		58.33%
III	Observations / Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:- (Vide Recommendation No.4)	1
Percentage of Total		8.33%
IV	Observations / Recommendations in respect of which reply of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration:- (Vide Recommendation No. 2 & 7)	2
Percentage of Total		16.66%
V	Observations / Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited: (Vide Recommendation Nos. 3 and 9)	2
Percentage of Total		16.66%