

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:115

ANSWERED ON:15.07.2014

ADVERSE IMPACT OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS

Kumar Dr. Arun

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the usage of chemical fertilizers for the production of foodgrains and vegetables has adversely affected the fertility of soil and human health;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has launched any awareness campaign to educate farmers on the adverse impact of excessive usage of chemical fertilizers for production of foodgrains;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to promote organic farming amongst farmers and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government for ensuring availability of bio-fertilizers in adequate quantity for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 115 DUE FOR REPLY ON 15TH JULY, 2014.

(a) & (b): There is no scientific evidence of declining soil/crop productivity from judicious use of chemical fertilisers. However, indiscriminate and imbalanced use of fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter over years may result in multinutrient deficiencies. There is also the possibility of contamination of ground water due to excessive use of nitrogenous fertilisers, particularly in light textured soils, that has consequence on human health if used for drinking purpose.

(c) & (d): Government is recommending soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources of plant nutrients to reduce the negative impact of chemical fertilizers. In addition, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is advocating split application and placement of fertilizers, use of slow releasing N-fertilizers and nitrification inhibitors, growing leguminous crops and use of Resource Conservation Technologies (RCTs). ICAR also imparts training, organizes frontline demonstrations to educate farmers on these aspects.

Under Soil Health Management (SHM) component of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), financial assistance for training to farmers including field demonstrations on balanced used of fertilisers is provided @ Rs.10,000 per training for 20 or more participants. Financial assistance for frontline field demonstrations is also provided @ Rs. 20,000 per demonstration.

(e): Government is promoting organic farming through various programmes, namely, National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) under NMSA, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Network Project on Organic Farming under ICAR. Under the National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), Government is promoting production of various organic inputs in the country including biofertilizers. NPOF provides financial assistance upto 25% of total financial outlay upto a ceiling of Rs.40 lakhs as credit linked back-ended subsidy for setting up Bio-fertilizer production units. Under the National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm, assistance is provided for supply of Rhizobium culture / Phosphate Solubilizing Bacteria, Azotobacter and Azospirillum culture @50% of the cost of culture or Rs. 300/- per hectare whichever is less. Under National Food Security Mission (NFSM), assistance for popularizing Rhizobium culture/ Phosphate Solubilizing Bacteria/ Azotobacter etc. is provided to the farmers under cluster demonstrations. In addition, RKVY funds can also be used for promoting Biofertilisers. The details of state wise bio-fertilizer production units and production during last five years is enclosed at Annexure – I & Annexure – II.