

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 855
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 7TH FEBRUARY, 2023

USE OF BIO-FERTILIZERS

855. SHRI RAJENDRA DHEDYA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to make use of bio-fertilizers compulsory along with urea for better soil health;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this system is likely to be made compulsory;
- (c) whether the Government has short-listed the bio-fertilizers and fixed the contents of nutrients therein to ensure that the production is not reduced; and
- (d) whether there is any proposal to transfer the subsidy on urea to the farmers and not the manufacturers contrary to existing system?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): There is no proposal to make use of bio-fertilizers compulsory along-with the urea. However, use of bio-fertilizer is recommended under Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) strategies and organic farming for use in all crops.

(c): Bio-fertilizers are live microbial products which does not contain any nutrients. The micro-organisms present in the bio-fertilizer ensure availability of nutrients from non-available form present within soil and air to available form which plants can uptake. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed improved and efficient strains of bio-fertilizers specific to different crops and soil types under All India Network Project (AINP) on Soil Biodiversity-Bio-fertilizers and informed that Bio-fertilizers can improve crop yields by 10-25% and supplement costly chemical fertilizers (N, P) by nearly 20-25% in most of the cases when used along with chemical fertilizers without any reduction in production.

11 bio-fertilizers namely; Rhizobium, Azotobactor, Azospirillum, Phosphate Solubilising Bacteria, Mycorrhizal Bio-fertilisers, Potassium Mobilizing Bio-fertilizers (KMB) Zinc Solubilizing Biofertilizers (ZSB) Acetobactor, Carrier Based Consortia, Liquid Consortia , and Phosphate Solubilising Fungus have been notified and included into **the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985**. The quality standards of these bio-fertilizers have been specified under the FCO, 1985.

(d): At present, there is no such proposal to transfer the subsidy on urea to the farmers and not the manufacturers