

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS  
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS  
**LOK SABHA**

**UN STARRED QUESTION NO. 2679 TO BE ANSWERED ON : 04.08.2023**

**Biological Substitutes for Chemical Fertilizers and Pesticides**

**2679. SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA:**

Will the Minister of **CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government agrees to the view that biological substitutes for chemical fertilisers and pesticides can improve the health of soil, human and planet, besides benefitting farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the development and promotion of these substitutes in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

**(SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA)**

(a) & (b): Biological substitutes for chemical fertilizers and pesticides can improve health of soil, human and planet, besides benefitting farmers. Productivity is dependent on its organic carbon and soil's biological life. To keep the soil healthy and fertile, it needs to be enriched with biomass at regular intervals. Bio-fertilizers and organic fertilizers are ideal inputs which can replenish the soil with organic carbon and beneficial micro-organisms.

(c) & (d): The Government has taken various steps to promote chemical free farming methods like organic & natural farming along with promotion of alternative fertilizers. Government is promoting use of bio-fertilizers and organic fertilizers and bio-pesticides under organic farming through the scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development in North East Region (MOVCDNER) since 2015-16. Under these schemes, farmers are primarily encouraged for organic cultivation using organic inputs and end to end support to farmers i.e. from production to marketing of organic produce is ensured. Hands-on training to farmers about on-farm production of organic fertilizers and its use are integral part of these schemes. Farmers are provided subsidy of Rs 31000/ ha / 3 years under PKVY and Rs. 32500/ ha/ 3 years under MOVCDNER for on-farm organic inputs including bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides as well as for procurement of off-farm organic inputs.

Trainings are provided to farmers on use of bio/organic fertilizers by National Centre for Organic and Natural Farming (NCONF) and Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR).

The Government has approved the Market Development Assistance (MDA) @ Rs. 1500/M T, to promote organic fertilizers, i.e., manure produced at plants under GOBARdhan initiative covering different biogas/CBG support schemes/programmes of stakeholders Ministries/Departments. It will promote integrated nutrient management and reduce overuse of chemical fertilizers ensuring sustainability, soil health and better use efficiency of inputs. The Government has also PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness Generation, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth (PM-PRANAM) to incentivize States/UTs to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers. This will incentivize the farmers to reduce the overall consumption of fertilizers for improving soil health and fertility and sustainable productivity.

ICAR has developed improved and efficient strains of bio-fertilizers specific to different crops and soil types with higher shelf life.

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