

Promoting ecological fertilizers

2682. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the share of ecological (non-chemical) fertilizers in the fertilizers market, as of now;
- (b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Ministry to promote ecological fertilizers;
- (c) whether Government has any intention to phase out chemical fertilizers gradually;
- (d) whether a study has been undertaken on the possible harmful effects of over use of chemical fertilizers on the soil; and
- (e) if so, the recommendations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) All organic ecological (non-chemical) fertilizers presently available can supplement chemical fertilizers by nearly 25 per cent.

(b) National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) has been started with effect from 2004-05 to promote the use of organic fertilizers. The project, *inter-alia*, has funded setting up for compost, vermin-compost and bio-fertilizers production units. Organic farming is also being encouraged under flagship schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA).

(c) Availability of organic fertilizers is not sufficient to meet the requirement of plant nutrients, therefore there is no proposal to phase out chemical fertilizers.

(d) and (e) Balanced use of chemical fertilizers does not affect soil adversely. However, imbalanced use of fertilizers, low addition of organic matter and non replacement of depleted micro and secondary nutrients over the years; has resulted in nutrient deficiency and deterioration of soil health in some parts of the country, particularly in intensively cultivated Indo-Gangetic plains.

Modernisation/upgradation of indigenous fertilizer producing units

2683. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an increase in indigenous production of fertilizers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;
- (c) whether the Ministry is also ensuring that such indigenous production units get modernized or upgraded; and