

Government makes additional allocation of foodgrains to the States/Union Territories (UTs) over and above normal allocation under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), for relief in the wake of natural calamities viz. floods, drought, earthquake etc. at economic cost or open sale rates whichever is less, with immediate effect. Such allocations are made post event on the request of States/UTs or the recommendation of Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCT) constituted by the nodal Ministries after assessment of actual damage to the crops and requirement of foodgrains.

There is stock of 596.75 lakh tones of foodgrains (rice and wheat) in the Central Pool as on 01.04.2013 which is sufficient to meet the requirement of TPDS, other welfare schemes and any other special contingencies in the country.

Negative impact of chemical fertilizers

†4046. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that usage of chemical fertilizers in agriculture in the country has negatively effected the agriculture land and water utilization;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) whether a proposal of suggestions has been made by Government to save the farmers from this negative effect; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) There is no scientific evidence of deterioration of land with judicious use of chemical fertilizers. However, indiscriminate and imbalanced use of fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter over years may result in to micronutrient deficiencies and deterioration of soil health.

There is possibility of nitrate contamination in ground water due to excessive use of nitrogenous fertilizers particularly in light textured soils.

The Government is promoting balanced use of fertilizers through soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures, use of customized fertilizers etc. to minimize adverse effect on the agricultural land and ground water.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) The Government is advocating soil test based Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) envisaging conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources of nutrients to sustain soil health, higher crop productivities and prevent contamination of groundwater.

National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSH&F) has been taken up from 2008-09 to promote soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilizers through setting up/strengthening of soil testing laboratories, trainings and demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers.

In addition, split application and placement of fertilizers, use of slow releasing nitrogenous fertilizers, growing leguminous crops and use of Resource Conservation Technologies (RCTs) are advised by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). ICAR also imparts training, organizes frontline demonstrations to educate farmers on this aspect.

**Implementation of National Project for Cattle and
Buffalo Breed**

4047. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated, released and utilized for establishment of private Artificial Insemination (AI) service under the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breed to various States/UTs during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(b) the number of camps organised in Madhya Pradesh for treatment of animals for infertility and also for training of workers for management of dairy animals during the said period; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to strengthen the implementation of the project and deliver breeding inputs at the farmer's doorstep all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The details of the funds released and utilized for establishment of private Artificial Insemination Service (AI) under National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB) during each of the last three years and current year State-wise and year-wise is given in Statement (*See below*).