

Consumption of fertilizers by farmers of Andhra Pradesh

414. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that per hectare fertilizer (N, P and K) consumption in Andhra Pradesh is much more than the national average;
- (b) if so, the reasons behind increased use of fertilizers in the State; and
- (c) the efforts Government is making to see that fertilizers, in appropriate quantity, are used by farmers of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Requirement of fertilizers for a specific cropping season depends upon the requirement of nutrients based on soil health status, cropping pattern, irrigated area etc. In view of above, consumption pattern of fertilizers varies from State to State and accordingly, per hectare consumption of fertilizers of a particular State will be at variance from the national average.

(c) Government is promoting balanced fertilization based on deficient soil nutrients as established by soil testing in conjunction with other sources of plant nutrients such as organic manures and bio-fertilizers through National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) in all States including Andhra Pradesh.

To enhance soil testing capacity in the State, financial assistance has been provided to the State Government for setting up of 5 new Static Soil Testing Laboratories (STLs), 3 new Mobile STLs, 2 new Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCLs) and strengthening of 5 FQCLs during 11th Plan period.

Financial assistance to promote Organic Farming and micronutrients is also provided to the State Government.

Trainings for farmers and STL staff and Frontline Field Demonstrations are also taken up by State Government under the scheme.

Andhra Pradesh has issued 4.17 lakh Soil Health Cards during year 2011-12, 5.28 lakh during 2012-13 and 2.69 lakh during 2013-14.

Effects of New Drug Pricing Policy

415. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether New Drug Pricing Policy which has been brought in the month of May