

**Use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides**

975. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers it important to minimise the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on the soil; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) The Government is promoting soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers, bio-fertilizers and locally available organic manures like Farm Yard Manure, compost, Vermi Compost and Green manure to maintain soil health and its productivity.

'Soil Health Card' (SHC) scheme has been launched in February 2015 to assist State Governments to evaluate fertility in all 14 crore farm holdings and issue soil health cards to farmers regularly in a cycle of 2 years. Soil health cards provide information to farmers on nutrients status of their soil along with recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

In order to reduce use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers in the country, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is recommending Integrated Pest Management (through a combination of agronomic, chemical and biological methods) and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) envisaging conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources of nutrients. Besides, split application and placement of fertilizers, use of slow releasing N-fertilizers and nitrification inhibitors, inclusion of legumes in cropping system, adoption of Resource Conservation Technologies (RCTs) and fertigation are also being advocated. ICAR also imparts training, organizes Front Line Field Demonstrations to educate farmers on all these aspect.

Under the scheme 'Strengthening and Modernisation of Pest Management Approach in India' farmers are educated to adopt Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as cardinal principle and main plank of plant protection strategy in overall crop production programme. Under the ambit of (IPM) programme, the Government of India has established 31 Central IPM Centres which conduct Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) to educate farmers about mechanical, cultural and biological control measures including use of biopesticides against different crop pests and weeds and judicious use of chemical pesticides as a measure of last resort.

The Insecticides Act 1968 and the Rules framed thereunder mandate that pesticides are registered for use in agriculture in India only after a detailed evaluation of safety. Once registered, a pesticide is legally obligated to display and carry approved labels and leaflets containing critical information on safe use of pesticides for the benefit of farmers and extension functionaries etc. Application of pesticides in accordance with instructions on the label and leaflets is not likely to cause any harm to human health.

#### **Improving living standard of fishermen**

976. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of average per capita income of fishermen in various States, including Gujarat; and

(b) whether Government has any plan to improve the livelihood and living standards of fishermen in the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries does not maintain data regarding per-capita income of fishermen in the country.

(b) For improvement of livelihood and living standards of fishermen, the Government has recently accorded approval to the restructured Central Sector Scheme " Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries " by merging the existing schemes of fisheries of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, with the following broad components:- National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and its activities, Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture, Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations, Strengthening of Database and Geographical Information System of the fisheries sector and National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen, with an overall objective to enhance fish production and productivity.

#### **Agricultural growth rate**

977. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the agricultural growth rate for the last five years;

(b) whether agricultural growth dips into negative this year; and