

fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter over years may cause micronutrient deficiencies in the soil as evident from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) study on 'Long Term Fertilizer Experiments' in different soil types under various cropping system. The research also shows that the limiting nutrients which are deficient will also not allow the full expression of other nutrients, thereby lowering fertilizer responses and crop productivity. Having regard to the use above said research, Government is recommending soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources (manure, bio-fertilizer etc) of plant nutrients.

(d) and (e) The production/ use of various manures and chemical fertilizers for the last 3 years is given in the Statement (*See below*).

Balance and integrated nutrient management is being popularized among the farmers through Front Line Demonstration (FLD), farmers trainings, publishing extension materials in local languages.

Statement

Details of year-wise production/ use of various manures and chemical fertilizers during last 3 years

Year	Chemical Fertilizers (NPK) (‘000, tones)	Rural Compost	FYM	Manures (In MT)			Total
				City- compost	Vermi- compost	Other manures	
2012-13	52924.84	1039.35	2850.50	143.05	53.71	2917.00	7003.61
2013-14	51381.15	224.98	1399.30	63.34	582.27	24.28	2294.17
2014-15	53355.69	225.88	1400.39	64.22	583.20	24.95	2298.64

Setting up of Central Agriculture Universities in Bihar and Jharkhand

†2966. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved the setting up of two new Central Agriculture Universities in the States of Bihar and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the locations thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) by when these two Universities are going to commence their operation; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) to (d) The Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar has been converted into Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar by enactment of Parliament on 11.05.2016. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University Act, 2016 has been notified in the Gazette of India on 28.05.2016. The University is already in operation.

Jharkhand University is not Central Agricultural University.

Suicide by farmers

2967. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is paying special attention to the reasons responsible for forcing farmers to commit suicide day by day as such incidents keep on increasing;
- (b) whether Government is conducting any study to understand the financial burden of farmers; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor as the increasing cases of suicide by farmers is a tragic and complex issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Agriculture, including agricultural indebtedness, being a State subject, the State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture in the State. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support.

The strategy of the Government is to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Farm viability is possible, when cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. The Department has been implementing various schemes to meet this objective, viz.:

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the major and minor nutrients available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and thus save money of farmers. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea is being promoted to regulate urea use, enhance its availability