

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture**

†2081. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to formulate any laws aimed at making the use of organic fertilizers in agriculture compulsory on the lines of Sikkim Government in order to reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides is the main reason for a continuous decline in the fertility and deterioration of soil health; and

(d) if so, whether there is any action plan to sensitize the farmers about reducing the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides along with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (d) Use of Organic fertilisers is promoted by the Government through the organic farming schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Mission Organic Value Chain Development in North East Region (MOVCDNER). An amount of Rs 31000/ ha/3 years is directly provided to farmers in PKVY towards inputs including organic fertilisers and ₹ 25000/ha is provided under MOVCDNER for organic inputs.

The quality parameters of organic fertilisers namely City Compost, Vermicompost, Phosphate Rich Organic Manure(PROM), Organic manure, Bio- enriched Organic Manure, Bone meal, raw, Bone meal etc. are included under Fertilizer (Control) Order, (FCO), 1985. Any deviation from the specifications while manufacturing or selling is punishable as per Essential Commodities Act.

Balanced and judicious use of fertilizers and chemicals is necessary for maintaining soil health. Government has been recommending soil test based balanced and Integrated Nutrient Management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources (manure, biofertilizers, green manuring, in-situ crop residue recycling etc.) of plant nutrient through four approaches *i.e.* right quantity, right time, right mode and right type of fertilizer for judicious and reduced use of chemical fertilizers. In addition, split

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

application, use of slow releasing fertilizers including neem coated urea and growing leguminous crops are also advocated.

Educating farmers through demonstrations, melas, and trainings is part of many schemes. Under SHC scheme, 1946 trainings, 474 melas, and 3.03 lakh demonstrations have been conducted by states in the last 4 years. National Centre for Organic Farming, subordinate office of the department has been involved in awareness generation about use of organic and biofertilisers. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also imparts training, organises front line demonstrations to educate farmers.

Bringing pre-sowing and post-harvest activities under MGNREGS

2082. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to bring pre-sowing and post-harvest activities under MGNREGS; and

(b) if so, the details of concrete proposal made or funds earmarked for the same, if any?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) There are 260 works which are permissible under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS), of which 164 works relate to agriculture and allied activities. Mahatma Gandhi NREGS already lays emphasis that atleast 60% of works at district level in terms of cost shall be for creation of productive assets directly linked to Agriculture and Allied Activities which include works related to water security like construction of farm ponds, wells, earthen check dam, field channels and other water harvesting structures. The expenditure on Agriculture and Allied Activities is given as under:

| Year | 2018-19 | 2017-18 | 2016-17 |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Percentage of expenditure | 63.37 | 66.07 | 66 |

Damage to crops in Maharashtra due to unseasonal rains

2083. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that unseasonal rain has caused havoc to the onion and other crops in the State of Maharashtra resulting in steep rise in prices in particular that of onion and tomatoes;