

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2102
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06/08/2021

INDISCRIMINATE USE OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDES

2102. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is proposing to frame any law with a view to making of organic fertilizers compulsory in agriculture along the lines of Government of Sikkim to reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the main reason for the continuous decline in soil fertility and soil health is the indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides;
- (d) if so, whether Government has any action-plan to create awareness among the farmers to decrease the usage of chemical fertilizers and pesticides; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. Government has been promoting organic farming through dedicated schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development in North East Region (MOVCDNER) for reducing dependence on chemical fertilizers and enhancement of soil health and productivity through use of bio/organic inputs. Farmers are provided financial assistance (RS 31000/ ha/3 years in PKVY and 32500/ ha/ 3years under MOVCDNER) for organic inputs such as seeds, bio fertilisers, bio-pesticides, organic manure, compost/ vermi-compost, botanical extracts etc. In addition, organic cultivation on either side of River Ganga, natural farming, large area certification and support for individual farmers have also been introduced under PKVY to increase organic coverage using organic/ bio inputs.

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.

(c): Indiscriminate and imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter and neglect of micro and secondary nutrients over years may cause multi-nutrient deficiencies and deterioration of soil health particularly in intensively cultivated areas. Results of All India Coordinated Research Project on 'Long Term Fertilizer Experiments' over five decades at fixed sites have revealed that continuous use of nitrogenous fertilizer alone had deleterious effect on soil health and crop productivity showing deficiencies of other major and micro nutrients. Even with recommended doses of NPK, deficiency of micro and secondary nutrients has become yield limiting factors over the years. Government of India has been stressing on the balanced usage of the chemical fertilizer.

(d) & (e): Training to farmers on use of bio/organic fertilisers is integral part of organic farming schemes. National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF) also conducts Jaivik sammelans, farmers training, field demonstration and awareness programmes through print and electronic media. Farmers' trainings and field demonstrations on balanced used of fertilizers have been promoted under Soil Health Card programme. ICAR is also imparting training and frontline demonstration to educate farmers on organic farming and balanced used of fertilizers.
