

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION & FARMERS WELFARE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 30**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019

**UPGRADATION AND MODERNIZATION OF AGRICULTURE**

\*30. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated a pilot project/plan or scheme for the upgradation and modernization of agriculture, especially in the States where soil quality and water tables are deteriorating and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Ministry is considering the initiation of a strict plan to check the sale of adulterated and fake fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, etc. to prevent further damage to soil, water, environment and save farmers from financial loss and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures being taken by the Ministry to tackle straw burning issues and provide cheap equipment for the management of leftover straw?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 30 DUE FOR REPLY ON 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019.**

(a): Agriculture is a State subject. Government of India supports and facilitates the State Governments through several Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to promote agriculture in the country. Indian agriculture has benefitted immensely from the various major modern technology interventions. Development of Kisan Suvidha mobile application to facilitate dissemination of information to farmers on the critical parameters viz., Weather; Market Prices, Plant Protection. Development of mKisan Portal ([www.mkisan.gov.in](http://www.mkisan.gov.in)) for sending advisories on various crop related matter to the registered farmers through SMSs. Launching of e-National Agriculture Market initiative to provide farmers an electronic online trading platform Implementation of Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana which mainly focuses on water use efficiently at farm level through precision/micro irrigation technologies viz., Drip and Sprinkler irrigation. Use of space technology for various programmes/areas such as Forecasting Agricultural Output using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land-based Observations project. All schemes of the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW) are implemented across the country to improve production and productivity in the various agro-climatic zones including the States where soil quality and water tables are deteriorating. Schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichai Yojana (PMSKY), National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility – Soil Health Management & Soil Health Card, Reclamation of Problem Soils (a sub-scheme under RKVY-RAFTAAR) are specially operated to tackle deteriorating soil quality and water tables.

Contd...2/-

(b): The Government of India has already declared fertilizers as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and has promulgated the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 (FCO) to regulate the trade, price, quality and distribution of fertilizers. Specifications of fertilizers are prescribed in the order. Clause 19 of FCO strictly prohibits the sale of fertilizer which is not of prescribed standards.

State Governments are empowered under the Fertilizer (Control) Order/Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to take appropriate administrative and legal action against those dealers / manufacturers / importers who do not comply with the provisions prescribed in the Order. The essential commodities Act prescribes a maximum punishment of seven years for violation of the provisions of FCO. There are 82 fertilizer testing laboratories in the country. Samples of fertilizers are drawn periodically by the fertilizer inspectors of the State Governments from retailers/wholesalers and manufacturing units, etc. for testing in the notified laboratories to check their quality in respect of the quality parameters prescribed in the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985.

Pesticides are substances or preparations intended for purposes of preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any insects, rodents, fungi, weeds and other forms of plant or animal life not useful to human beings. Pesticides are inherently toxic in nature. However, they do not pose any adverse effect, if used as per label claims approved by the Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968. Pesticides are registered for use in the country by the Registration Committee only after satisfaction about their efficacy and safety to human health, animal and environment.

As per the Insecticide Act, 1968, the monitoring of pesticide quality is a shared responsibility between Central and State Governments. The Central and State Government have notified 192 and 10905 Insecticide Inspectors respectively to check the quality of pesticides. Insecticide samples are drawn on regular basis and analyzed in 69 State Pesticide Testing laboratories and two Regional Pesticide Testing Laboratories. Action is initiated against those samples which are found misbranded.

During the last 3 years, 2467 prosecutions have been launched throughout India against firms which were found to be involved in selling and manufacturing of sub-standard pesticides and illegal import of pesticides.

(c): To address air pollution and to subsidize machinery required for in-situ management of crop residue, a new Central Sector Scheme on 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi' for the period from 2018-19 to 2019-20 has been launched with a total outgo of Central funds of Rs. 1151.80 crores.

Under the scheme, financial assistance @ 80% of the project cost is provided to the Co-operative Societies of farmers, FPOs, Self-Help Groups, registered Farmers Societies / farmers groups, Private Entrepreneurs, Group of women farmers or self-help groups for establishment of farm machinery banks or custom hiring centres of in-situ crop residue management machinery. Financial assistance @ 50% of the cost of machinery/equipment is also provided to individual farmers for purchase of machinery/equipment for crop residue management.

\*\*\*\*