

Fertility of Land

2227. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fertility of land is declining very rapidly in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the measure taken by the Government to arrest the decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Intensive cultivation leads to depletion of the soils of their nutrients affecting overall soil fertility. According to research findings, deficiency of iron, zinc, sulphur and other micronutrients has been noticed in various States. The details are given in Statement.

(c) Following remedial measures are taken by the Govt. to prevent declining fertility of the soil.

(i) Application of micronutrients is advocated in the concept of integrated plant nutrient management in which conjunctive use of chemical fertilisers including micro-nutrients, organic manures, compost and bio-fertilisers is required to be practised.

(ii) A national project on development and use of bio-fertilisers is being implemented by the Central Govt. for improving soil fertility through the use of bio-fertilisers.

(iii) Judicious use of fertiliser is advocated based on soil test based fertiliser use recommendations.

(iv) The concept of balanced fertiliser use is also propogated through electronic media in the form of Krishi Darshan/Krishi Talks.

Statement*Extent of Micronutrient Deficiency in Soils of different States of India*

S.No.	State	No. of Samples analysed	Percentage of Sample deficient in							
			Zinc	Copper	Iron	Manga- nese	Molybdenum	Boron	Sulphur	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1.	Andhra Pradesh (1)	6031	56	<1	2	<1	—	—	—	38
2.	Assam (2)	12165	34	—	—	—	—	17	—	—
3.	Bihar (3)	22735	55	3	6	1	41	—	—	23
4.	Gujarat (3)	29532	24	4	8	4	10(1991)	2(489)	—	37
5.	Haryana (3)	23312	53	3	22	4	—	—	—	31
6.	Karnataka (4)	52457	80	3	31	8	25	—	—	34
7.	Madhya Pradesh (3)	31491	62	1	3	1	18(92)	22(1249)	—	40

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8.	Maharashtra (5)	4877	28	4	31	<1	<1	10	—
9.	Orissa (2)	16041	54	<1	—	—	—	69(882)	45
10.	Punjab (1)	15989	47	1	27	2	—	—	24
11.	Tamil Nadu (1)	20279	52	27	17	6	—	—	21
12.	Uttar Pradesh (3)	28477	40	<1	4	2	<1	—	64
13.	West Bengal (2)	6547	36	—	—	3	—	68	—

() Number of samples analysed.

(1) Based on State Agricultural University information.

(2) Based on district surveys of Indo-British Fertilizer Education Project (IBFEP)

(3) Based on ICAR Micronutrient Coordinated Project, PDIL survey and IBFEP information

(4) Based on State Department of Agriculture information

(5) Information supplied by Agricultural University, Parbhani and Rahuri.

Source.— Market Survey of Micronutrient Fertilizers in India—Study by Projects and Development India Ltd., 1996.

*Progress Report (1993-94 and 1994-95), All India Coordinated Research Project of Micro-and Secondary-Nutrients and Pollutant Elements in Soils and Plants.

Review of Five Year Plans

2228. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to review the present process of planning of Five Year Plans;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No such proposal is before the Planning Commission at present. However, the Planning process has evolved over time to reflect the changes in the economy and the advances made in the planning methodology.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Relations with Morocco

2229. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to establish good relations with Morocco;

(b) whether India-Morocco bilateral talks were held when the Prime Minister visited the country; and

(c) if so, the main issues discussed?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Relations with Morocco are marked by warmth and friendship. Every effort is being made by Government to further deepen and strengthen these relations.

(b) and (c) The Prime Minister visited Morocco on 13-14 February, 1999. Detailed discussions were held by Prime Minister with King Hassan II and Prime Minister