

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1974  
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2003  
ORGANIC FARMING  
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether agro-chemicals have caused severe problem of ecology degradation, degradation of soil health and water bodies;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether three committees of 1993, 1998 and 2001 made recommendations for popularizing organic farming but it has not yet a part of curriculum for agricultural students or in mandate of ICAR;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefore;
- (e) whether agro-chemicals are causing various diseases including crippling of children and Bharatiya Cattle Resource Development Foundation and some others have been demanding for a sustainable agriculture; and
- (f) if so, the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): The average consumption of agro-chemicals, i.e., fertilizers and pesticides in the country is only 91.49 kg/ha and 0.57 kg/ha (active ingredient), respectively during 2001-02. This level of consumption is not considered to have adverse effect on ecology, soil health and water bodies. However, there are few instances of nitrate contamination in ground water under intensively cropped area and decline in soil health due to imbalanced use of fertilizers.

(c) & (d): The various aspects of organic farming are already a part of course curriculum under Agronomy/Natural Resource Management subjects in State Agricultural Universities.

(e) & (f): Though several reports on adverse effect of agro-chemicals on infants & children have been published in newspapers and magazines, however, the ICMR has not found it to be substantiated by scientific data. There are however, few instances of decline in soil fertility due to inadequate & imbalanced use of fertilizers in the country. The Government is promoting the soil test based balanced and integrated use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures & biofertilizers and also integrated pest management practices with minimum use of pesticides. Government is also promoting organic farming through use of organic sources of nutrients and also use of mechanical/natural means of controlling weeds and pests including bio-pesticides and bio-agents.