

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:391
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2004
IMPACT ON LAND FERTILITY
Maken Shri Ajay

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study on the impact on land fertility due to continuous cultivation of wheat and paddy crops only;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to promote crop diversification to prevent soil infertility; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 391 DUE FOR REPLY ON 23RD AUGUST, 2004.

(a)&(b): No specific study of long range nature to study the impact on land fertility due to continuous cultivation of wheat and paddy has been conducted by Government of India. However, a Fact Finding Committee was constituted by the Government in 1997 with the objective of analyzing in-depth the trend of productivity of important crops in Haryana and Punjab. The findings of the committee reveals that there is decline in the organic-carbon content of the soils due to continuous cultivation of cereal based cropping system. The analysis of nutrients removal has also indicated that due to continuous cultivation of wheat and rice more nutrients are being harvested by the plants resulting in deterioration in soil health.

(c)&(d): Crop Diversification has been identified as one of thrust areas by Government during X Plan to address the problems like deterioration in soil fertility etc. created by cyclic monocropping and over exploitation of natural resources. Government is encouraging agriculture diversification into high value/more remunerative crops like oilseeds, pulses, horticulture, floriculture, medicinal and aromatic plants based on comparative advantage of agroclimatic conditions, market access and domestic and international demand.