

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:145
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010
SOIL TESTING IN ARABLE LAND
Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether soil of the entire arable land of the country has been tested;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the details of areas in which said testing has been carried out, State-wise;
- (c) whether agricultural conditions are deteriorating due to imbalanced use of chemical fertilisers and unavailability of soil testing facility to farmers; and
- (d) if so, the scheme formulated by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)&(b): The existing capacity for soil testing in the country is limited only to about 7 million farm holdings per annum. As reported by the state governments, the details of soil samples tested are at Annexure.

(c) : Yes, Madam.

(d) : A new scheme, namely, 'National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility'(NPMSF) has been introduced during 2008-09 to promote soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers. Similar interventions are also made through the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtrya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) and Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) schemes.