

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3018  
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2010  
FERTILITY OF LAND  
Chauhan Raj Kumari

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

- (a) whether extremely fertile land of some parts of the country including Aligarh division of Western Uttar Pradesh are constantly losing fertility and water level is also declining;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in the interest of the farmers; and
- (d) if not, whether the Government will take necessary steps after conducting necessary tests by the experts?

**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): Imbalanced use of fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter over years has resulted in deterioration of soil health particularly in the intensively cultivated areas of the country. Excessive ground water extraction is responsible for declining water level including Aligarh Division of Western Uttar Pradesh.

(c) & (d): The Government has implemented several schemes for sustainable soil health and productivity and to check decline in ground water level.

Under "National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility" (NPMSF) Scheme, there is provision to promote soil test based balanced use of fertilizers in conjunction with organic source of plant nutrient.

Measures taken to address over-exploitation of ground water include:-

- (i) Artificial recharge to ground water through dug wells.
- (ii) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.
- (iii) Organization of mass awareness programmes and training courses on water management, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water.