

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:726

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010

USE OF CHEMICAL FERTILISERS

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

- (a) whether continuous use of chemical fertilisers has harmful effects on soil fertility;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to check the use of chemical fertilisers;
- (c) whether the farmers in some parts of the country are injecting lots of nitrogen to increase the foodgrain production thereby damaging the crops;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken to educate the farmers about the balanced use of chemical fertilisers and to adopt organic farming method?

**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): There is no scientific evidence of declining soil fertility/crop productivity with judicious use of chemical fertilizers. However, indiscriminate or injudicious use of chemical fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter has resulted in deterioration of soil health in the country particularly in the intensively cultivated areas of Indo-Gangetic Plains. Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management advocating soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic sources of nutrients.

(c) to (e): In view of unbalanced N: P: K: ratio in some areas and deficiency of secondary and micro nutrients, the Government is promoting balanced use of fertilizers. The "National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility" (NPMSF) has been launched during 2008-09 to set up 500 new static and 250 new mobile soil testing laboratories in the country during 11th Five Year Plan. Further, under National Project on organic farming, assistance is provided for fruit/vegetable waste compost units, vermiculture hatchery units and bio-fertilizer production units.