

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1883
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2010
SOIL TESTING
Joshi Shri Mahesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of soil testing being performed on cultivable and non-cultivable land by the Government;
- (b) whether the tests are not being carried out as per the norms, as a result of which the full potential of the land is not being utilised;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and
- (d) the role and performance of centrally sponsored schemes 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) to (d): As in March 2009 there were 661 soil testing laboratories functioning in the country with an analyzing capacity of 72 lakh soil samples per annum. The Government of India has launched the centrally sponsored scheme "National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility" (NPMSF) during 2008-09 for setting up of 500 static and 250 mobile soil testing laboratories in the country and strengthening of existing soil testing laboratories to create testing facility of micro nutrients along with NPK.

Under NPMSF, 87 static and 88 mobile soil testing laboratories have been sanctioned along with strengthening of 133 existing soil testing laboratories during 2008-09 and 2009-10(up to February 2010).