

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3876
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010
SOIL HEALTH
Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is adopting the policy of Reduce, Recycle, Reject (RRR) for healthy soil and to improve the soil fertility;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): There is a need to adopt soil test based nutrient management envisaging conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources of plant nutrients (through recycling of crop residues into compost, farm yard manure and bio-fertilizers etc.) and introduction of leguminous crops in the cropping system to sustain good soil health for higher crop productivity. This will reduce the use of costly chemical fertilizers. There is no question of complete rejection of chemical fertilizers. The organic nutrient sources available in the country may be sufficient only to meet one third of total requirement of plant nutrients to achieve the targeted level of food production. Thus, the use of organic sources of nutrients has to be supplementary.