

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5084

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2010

EXCESSIVE USE OF FERTILISERS AND PESTICIDES

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the dangers like depletion of biometric layer of soil, decline in absorbing capacity of plants from the soil, degradation of land and contamination of underground water on account of excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in the country, including in Punjab;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides;

(d) whether the Government proposes to make changes in the Fertilizer Policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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): Imbalanced use of fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter and neglect of Micro and secondary nutrients over years have resulted nutrient deficiencies and deterioration of soil health in many parts of the country including in Punjab, particularly in intensively cultivated areas namely Indo gangetic plains. There is also possibility of nitrate contamination in ground water due to excessive use of nitrogenous fertilizers particularly in light textured soils.

(b) & (c): Government of India is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management through soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity. The Government is also promoting Integrate Pest Management, an eco-friendly approach involving pest control through all available methods and techniques including cultural, mechanical and biological control.

(d) & (e): The Government has introduced a Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy under which subsidy is based on nutrient content of the decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers.