

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:425

ANSWERED ON:07.07.2009

IMPACT OF FERTILIZERS ON SOIL FERTILITY

Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh; Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken to check adverse impact of chemical fertilisers on soil fertility;
- (b) the success achieved as a result thereof;
- (c) the total area of land affected by excessive use of chemical fertilisers, Statewise; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government 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): There is no scientific evidence to suggest adverse impact of chemical fertilizers on soil fertility in general. However, there are studies which indicate that imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers without any application of organic manures affected soil health and productivity in some parts of the country, especially in Indo-Gangetic plains.

Use of organic manures such as vermi-compost reduces the requirement of chemical fertilizers with additional benefit to soil health such as improved organic carbon and microbial load. Balanced use of fertilizers and application of deficient micro-nutrients can improve soil health and productivity.

The Government is promoting soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers, bio-fertilizers and locally available organic manures to maintain soil health and productivity. A new scheme, namely, National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility has been introduced during 2008-09 to promote soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures. Under this scheme, there is provision for establishment of 500 new static Soil Testing Laboratories and 250 new mobile Soil Testing laboratories during XI Five Year Plan. There is also provision for financial assistance for use of organic manure, micro-nutrients and for soil amendment.

Under the National Project on Organic Farming, use of organic manure and biological fertilizers is promoted through trainings, demonstrations and awareness programmes. To increase availability of organic and biological fertilizers, 25% back-ended subsidy is provided for establishment of fruit/vegetable market waste compost units and vermi-compost and bio-fertilizer production units.

Under National Horticulture Mission, there is special focus on promotion of organic farming.