

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:67
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010
USE OF CHEMICAL FERTILISERS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain areas have been identified where the soil has been affected by the use of chemical fertilisers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken to reduce the use of chemical fertilisers and to promote biofertilisers?

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 with low addition of organic matter has resulted in deterioration of soil health in the country, particularly in Indo-Gangetic plains.

(c): Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management advocating soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic source of nutrients to reduce indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and sustain good soil health. The National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility has been launched during 2008-09 to set up/strengthen Soil Testing Laboratories, promoting organic manure, micro-nutrients, soil amendments, training and demonstrations on Integrated Nutrient Management.

Under the National Project on Organic Farming, use of bio-fertilizers is promoted through trainings and awareness programmes. To augment availability of bio-fertilizers, 25% of total project cost up to a maximum of Rs.40 lakh is provided as back-ended subsidy through NABARD for establishment of bio-fertilizer production units. Promotion of bio-fertilizers is also being facilitated under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).