

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:177
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010
SOIL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME
Basheer Shri E. T. Muhammed

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in view of the importance of soil health improvement the Government has launched any programme in this regard; and
(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government thereon?

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): Yes, Madam. The Government has launched the "National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility" during 2008-09 to promote soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity.

(b): The main components of the scheme include setting up of 500 new static soil testing laboratories, strengthening of existing 315 soil testing laboratories, setting up of 250 mobile soil testing laboratories, promoting organic manures & soil amendments, distribution of micronutrients, setting up of 20 new fertilizer quality control laboratories and strengthening the existing 63 fertilizer quality control laboratories during the 11th Five Year Plan.

Under the scheme, funds amounting to Rs.16.62 crore and Rs.37.96 crore were released during 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively. The Budget allocation for 2010-11 is Rs.25.00 crore.