

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2321
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009
DECLINE IN FERTILITY OF LAND
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the hazard of decline in fertility of land and contamination of underground water caused by excessive use of chemical, fertilizers and pesticides;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any survey has been conducted in the country to ascertain the extent of decline in fertility of land;
- (d) if so, the details and the parts of the country in which the said decline has been registered thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to take any action to prevent the said decline in fertility; and
- (f) 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) & (b): Balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers and registered pesticides is not known to cause damage to soil health and fertility. However, imbalanced and injudicious use of chemical fertilizers has been observed to have affected soil health and productivity in some parts of the country.

There is possibility of nitrate contamination in ground water due to excessive use of nitrogenous fertilizers particularly in light textured soils as evident in Ludhiana and West Godawari districts in Punjab and Andhra Pradesh, respectively.

(c) & (d): As per a study conducted in States of Punjab and Haryana in Indo- Gangetic plains, soil organic carbon has decreased affecting soil health and fertility.

(e) & (f): 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 fertilizer in conjunction with organic manures. The new scheme envisages establishment of 500 new static Soil Testing Laboratories and 250 new mobile Soil Testing Laboratories in the country during 11th Five Year Plan.