

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1486  
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011  
FERTILITY OF LAND  
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the fertility of 70% of land, out of the total agricultural land in the country, has reduced;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the regions in which agricultural production has suffered due to the said reasons; and
- (d) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): Compilation of soil test data of last five years from different soil testing laboratories in various States by Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal have revealed that 57 per cent, 51 per cent, and 9 per cent soils are low in available N, P & K respectively. Only marginal changes have been noticed in fertility status as compared to earlier report. However, multi-nutrient deficiencies are surfacing in many intensively cultivated areas; like Zink (49%), Sulphur (41%), (Boron), (33%) and Iron

(12%).

The main reason for multi-nutrient deficiencies are imbalance use of fertilizers and insufficient quantity of manures available to implement Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) over larger areas.

(c): Production of foodgrain in the country has increased over the year. However, due to falling factor productivity, the farmers need to apply more fertilizers per hectare to realize the same productivity of crops.

(d): Government is promoting soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures like Farm Yard Manure, Compost, Vermi compost and Green Manure to maintain soil health and its productivity.

National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility (NPMSH&F) has been launched during 2008-09 under which there is provision to set up/strengthen soil testing laboratories, training & demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers and promotion of INM by promoting use of organic manures, soil amendments and micronutrients.