

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4303

ANSWERED ON:20.12.2011

FERTILITY OF SOIL

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had conducted any study regarding the decline in fertility of land in the country;
- (b) if so, the finding thereof;
- (c) whether agricultural scientists have given any suggestions to save the soil fertility thereby increasing the production of foodgrains; and
- (d) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to save the fertility of soil in order to increase the production of foodgrains?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): A study carried out by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) indicated that nonjudicious and imbalanced use of chemical fertilizer over the years have resulted in deterioration of soil fertility in several parts of the country, particularly in the intensively cultivated area of indo-gangetic plains. The latest estimates of nutrient deficiencies in the country are:

Nitrogen - 90%

Phosphorus - 80%

Potassium - 50%

Sulphur - 41%

Zinc - 49%

Boron - 33%

Molybdenum - 13%

Iron - 12%

Manganese - 5%

Copper - 3%.

(c): Agricultural scientist have recommended soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management (INM) through conjunctive use of both inorganic and. organic sources of plant nutrients including secondary and micro-nutrients to sustain soil fertility and productivity.

(d): National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility has been launched during 2008-09 to promote soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity. The scheme includes setting up of new static/mobile soil testing lab, strengthening of existing soil testing laboratories, training & demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers and promoting use of organic manures, soil amendments and micro-nutrients.