

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:189
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011
SOIL HEALTH
Pakkirappa Shri S.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether due to the extensive use of chemical fertilisers and neglect of ecological fertilisation, the health of soil across the country is posing serious threat to the future of food security in the country;
- (b) if so, the policies formulated by the Government to promote balanced use of chemical fertilisers to maintain health of soil in the country;
- (c) the percentage use of chemical and organic fertilisers as a basic component for agriculture in the country, respectively;
- (d) whether the Government has introduced any scheme with a view to promote the usage of organic fertilisers in the country considering the serious implications of chemical fertilisation;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the details of the amount allocated and the implementation status of such schemes, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a): While per hectare consumption of chemical fertilizers in the country at 144.14 kg remains far less than that in many other developing countries, imbalanced use of fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter and neglect of micro and secondary nutrients over years have resulted in multi-nutrient deficiencies and deterioration of soil health in many parts of the country, particularly in intensively cultivated indo-Gangetic plains.

(b) & (c): The policies formulated and the measures taken by the Government to promote balanced use of fertilisers include encouraging soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers, bio-fertilizers and locally available organic manures to maintain soil health. The 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 fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures. All such organic eco-friendly sources of nutrients presently available can supplement chemical fertilizers by nearly 25%.

(d) to (f): Yes, Madam. National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) has been started with effect from 2004-05 to promote the use of organic fertilizers. The project, inter-alia, has funded setting up of compost, vermi compost and bio-fertilizer production units. Organic farming is also being encouraged under flagship schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) and Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA). The State-wise details of funds released are given in Annexures-I, II & III respectively.