

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3111
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012
SOIL HEALTH
Vishwanath Shri katti Ramesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some of the Non- Governmental Organisations have commissioned a survey on the state of soil health in the country and suggested ways and means to improve soil health;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve soil health?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): 'Greenpeace India' launched a 'Living Soils Campaign' which involved social audit of soil health management policies and schemes in selected districts of Assam, Orissa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab. The recommendations, inter-alia, include need for convergence of policies at grassroot level, need for an umbrella policy for ecological fertilization, launching of mission on ecological fertilization, support to various components of ecological fertilization practices such as in-situ and ex-situ bio-mass generation, on-farm and off-farm composting, bio-fertilizers and farm made liquid manure, eco-bonus to farmers for maintaining soil health and institutional support for ensuring soil health.
- (c): Government is promoting soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity, setting up / strengthening of static / mobile soil testing laboratories, training of soil testing laboratory staff / extension officers / farmers, field demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers, including use of organic manure, soil amendments and micro-nutrients.