

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:544

ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012

SOIL FERTILITY

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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the main classification of soils in the country;
- (b) the areas in each State/UT where the soil is malnourished and lacks vital nutrients;
- (c) the Centrally Sponsored Schemes to replenish the soil in these States/UTs;
- (d) the Agriculture Research Institutes/ Universities engaged in monitoring the health of soil in the country; and
- (e) the notable achievements made by these universities and institutes in replenishing the health of soil during the last two years?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 544 DUE FOR REPLY ON 15TH MAY, 2012.

(a): Department of Agricultural Research & Education, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has broadly classified soils of India into 25 major soil groups. Details of such soil groups, area under each group and percentage of each group to total geographical area is given in Annexure-I.

(b): State-wise details of districts observed to be deficient in vital nutrients are given in Annexure-II.

(c): Government of India is implementing various Schemes/ Programmes namely; National Project on Promotion of Organic Farming (NPOF), National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility (NPMSH&F), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) etc. for promotion of organic farming and integrated nutrient management through judicious use of chemical fertilizer, organic manure and bio fertilizer for improving soil health and its fertility across the country.

(d) & (e): ICAR has launched a project entitled "Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) based model soil fertility maps for selected districts for precise fertilizer recommendations to the farmers of India" with an outlay of Rs. 10.32 crore for mapping of 171 districts in India with objective to develop database related to soils, crops and cropping systems, organic carbon, primary, secondary and micronutrients status of soil and to prepare soil fertility maps. ICAR is also implementing an All India Coordinated Research Project for Investigation on Soil Test Crop Response Correlation. Under this project, soil test based fertilizer prescriptions have been developed to obtain targeted yield of crops. Details of Agriculture Research Institutes/Universities engaged in monitoring of soil health and major achievements made in last two years (2009-10 & 2010-11) are given in Annexure-III & IV.