

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2866

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012

QUALITY OF SOIL

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to identify the areas where the soil is malnourished and lacks vital nutrients;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to replenish the quality of soil in such areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the financial assistance given to farmers under the National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSH&F) to improve soil health and its productivity during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (f) the details of soil testing centres established so far in the country, State- wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b): Indian Institute of Soil Science (IISS) has conducted a study showing status of nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P) and Potassium (K) in different States. State-wise districts classified in low, medium or high category are given at Annexure-I. Special attention is required to be paid to the districts that are low in N, P or K.

Besides under All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Micronutrients showed that among micronutrients 49%, 41% and 33% samples were found deficient in Zinc (Zn), Sulphur (S) and Boron (B) respectively. State- wise details are given at Annexure-II.

(c) & (d): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is recommending soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources of plant nutrients to sustain good soil health in the country. In addition, growing leguminous crops are also advocated. The Council has developed technology for preparation of enriched/ vermi compost from various organic wastes. Besides, improved and efficient strains of biofertilizers specific to different crops and soil types are being developed under Network project on biofertilizers. The ICAR also imparts training, organizes Front Line Demonstrations etc. to educate farmers on these aspects.

National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility (NPMSH&F) has been taken up from 2008-09 to promote soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilizers through setting up/ strengthening of soil testing laboratory, trainings and demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers.

(e): Financial assistance to farmers under National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility (NPMSH&F) is given for the components of field demonstrations and promotion of Integrated Nutrient Management (INM). State- wise financial assistance given during last three years and current year is given at Annexure-III.

(f): State-wise details of soil testing laboratories in the country is given at Annexure-IV.