

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4815

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013

FERTILITY OF SOIL .

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has classified soil into 25 major soil groups in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the fertility of soil is decreasing in drought affected areas in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated to the States to maintain the fertility of soil in the country, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the fertility of soil in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): All India Soil and Land Use Survey classified soils of India into twenty-five major soil groups during 1972 (Annexure I). During 2002, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), Nagpur prepared soil map of India on 1:1 million scale and classified Indian soils in 7 Orders, 21 Suborders and 62 Greatgroups as per US Soil Taxonomy (Annexure II).

(c) & (d): Moisture stress in drought affected areas is the main limiting factor affecting nutrient availability to plants. Besides, indiscriminate and imbalance use of fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter over years may result in decline in soil fertility.

The Government under "National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility" (NPMSH&F) is providing financial assistance to states and implanting agencies in order to maintain fertility of soil in the country including drought affected areas, (Annexure III).

(e) The Government under "National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility" is promoting soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management (INM) to maintain soil health and fertility in the country. The ICAR imparts training, organizes Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) to educate farmers on this aspect.