

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5744

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2013

SOIL HEALTH

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether salinity and alkalinity have adversely affected soil health and agricultural productivity in coastal/delta areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of areas affected during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the programme launched for development of alkaline and acidic soils for agricultural purposes in the country; and
- (d) the achievements made so far, in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): Government of India does not undertake yearly assessment of land degradation including Alkalinity and Salinity. However, as per recent assessment of Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR-2010), about 3.70 million hectare is affected by Alkalinity, 17.93 million hectare by Acidity and 2.73 million hectare by salinity across the country as per state-wise details annexed.

(c) & (d): Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture was implementing a Centrally Sponsored Programme of Reclamation and Development of Alkali & Acid Soils (RADAS) through Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) Scheme, aiming at reclamation & development of areas affected by alkalinity and acidity by application of soil amendments followed by green manuring and scientific cropping pattern and crop rotation till last financial year (2012-13). Under this programme, since inception (1985-86) upto March, 2013, an area of 0.89 million hectare affected by alkali & acidic soils have been developed. States are now free to undertake these interventions under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) from current financial year.