

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:353

ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014

FERTILITY OF SOIL

Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Jaiswal Shri Gorakh Prasad

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has evaluated the fertility of soil/arable land across the country;
- (b) if so, the norms adopted for the purpose and the extent of micronutrients deficiency noticed, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the details of the schemes and projects under implementation to check the declining fertility of agricultural land and improve the fertility of soil for increasing agricultural production in the country including Chhattisgarh; and
- (d) the success achieved thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 353 DUE FOR REPLY ON 18TH FEBRUARY, 2014.

(a) & (b): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), has evaluated soil fertility in respect of micronutrients and secondary nutrients in 15 States under All India Coordinated Project on Micro- and Secondary- Nutrients and Pollutant Elements in Soils and Plants (AICRP-MSPE). The fertility status of soils with regard to micronutrients (Zinc, Iron, Copper, Manganese and Boron) have been delineated by collecting and analysing soil samples. The extent of micronutrient deficiencies noticed State-wise is given at Annexure-I

(c): National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility (NPMSH&F) is being implemented to promote soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilizers for improving soil health and productivity in all States including Chhattisgarh. NPMSH&F provides assistance for setting up new static/ mobile Soil Testing Laboratories (STLs), strengthening of existing STLs, setting up/ strengthening of Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCLs), training of STL Staff/Extension Officers/ Farmers, field demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers, promoting use of organic manure, soil amendments and micronutrients etc. Under Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and National Food Security Mission (NFSM), assistance is provided to the farmers for micronutrients, gypsum, lime and bio - fertilizers. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yajana (RKVY) funds can also be used by States to provide assistance for improving soil fertility.

(d): Details of sanctions under NPMSH&F during last three years and the current year are given at Annexure-II.