

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:189

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2015

IMPACT OF SOIL EROSION ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Pathak Smt. Riti

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether agricultural production has declined due to soil erosion in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Estimation made by Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (IISWC), Dehradun revealed that around 15.7% of annual average production (13.4 million tones) in rainfed areas covering cereals, pulses and oilseeds is lost due to soil erosion by water. Such loss in irrigated lands is negligible as these are leveled and well managed.

Loss of top fertile soil and deterioration of soil physical conditions due to soil erosion are the main reasons of declining crop productivity.

(c) Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (IISWC) has developed several location specific bio-engineering measures to check soil erosion in the country. Based on these, the Government of India is implementing Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) in the country. For this purpose, IISWC also organizes regular training courses for field functionaries and farmers on participatory watershed management.