

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3398

ANSWERED ON:17.03.2015

SALINE AND ALKALI SOIL

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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) the details of saline and alkali soil in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether quality/productivity of soil has degraded due to water logging in various parts of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) whether any scientific process has been initiated to improve the health of saline and alkali soils in the country, and if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the problem of small farmers and make the agriculture profitable for them?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) to (c): As per available estimates of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR-2010), an area of about 2.7 million hectare is affected by salinity, 3.7 million hectare by alkalinity and 0.9 million hectare by water logging across the country. Water logging, coupled with imbalanced and indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers, low addition of organic matter over the years do contribute in decline in soil productivity in many parts of the country. The state- wise extent of area affected by salinity, alkalinity and water logging is annexed.

(d) & (e): Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture has launched a National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) in April, 2014, which also envisages reclamation of problem (Alkali/Saline and Acid) soils by promotion of Integrated Farming System (IFS) for enhancing the productivity, profitability and livelihood of farming community including small and marginal farmers across the country. NMSA also supports for promoting integrated nutrient management through balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures for improving soil productivity including enhancement of water use efficiency by promotion on-farm water management technologies & equipments. Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various Schemes/ Missions, namely, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and National Food Security Mission (NFSM), etc. which address the issue of reducing the effect of salinity, alkalinity and water logging for sustainable agricultural production across the country.