

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4472

ANSWERED ON:21.04.2015

SOIL EROSION

Khanduri AVSM Maj. Gen. (Retd) Bhuwan Chandra;Patil Shri Kapil Moreshwar;Puttaraju Shri C.S.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Soil Resource Inventory and Management Centre in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any study has been conducted on soil erosion and land degradation/desertification in the country including Maharashtra;
- (d) if so, the details and the results thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the measures being adopted to check land degradation and enhance soil fertility?

**Answer**

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

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Doesn't arise.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. As per the harmonized database, the extent of land degradation in the country is 120.4 million ha comprising of 82.6 million ha under water erosion, 12.0 million ha under wind erosion, 24.8 million ha under chemical degradation and 1.0 million ha under physical degradation. The state-wise details, including Maharashtra, are given in Annexure-I.

As per Desertification Status Map of Space Application Centre, ISRO 2007, the area undergoing desertification is 81.45 million ha, which constitutes 24.78% of country's geographical area. The state-wise details are placed at Annexure-II.

(e) In order to prevent soil erosion and land degradation/ desertification, the Government of India, has been implementing several programs, namely; National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR), Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project, Flood Prone River (RVP&FPR), Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programmes (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) across the country. These programmes have been integrated into a single modified programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009. The major activities taken up under IWMP inter alia include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rainwater harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development etc. Besides, IISWC organizes regular training courses for field functionaries and farmers on participatory watershed management.

The Government is implementing National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) since April 2014 with a component of Reclamation of Problem soils viz., saline, alkali and acid soils.

In order to improve soil health and fertility, the Government under the component of soil health management of NMSA is promoting soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management in the country through setting up/strengthening of soil testing laboratories, establishment of bio-fertilizer and compost unit, use of micronutrients, trainings and demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers etc. Recently, a National Mission on Soil Health Card has been launched to provide soil tested based fertilizer recommendation to all the farmers in the country.