

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1297

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2015

Quality of Soils

Sundaram Shri P.R.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the main classification of soil in the country;
- (b) the States/UTs where the soil is malnourished and lacks vital nutrients;
- (c) the schemes being run to replenish the soil in these States/UTs;
- (d) the Agriculture Research Institutes/Universities engaged in monitoring the health of soil in the country; and
- (e) the notable achievements made by the universities and institutes in replenishing the health of soil during the last three years and the current year?

Answer

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

- (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), Nagpur prepared soil map of India on 1:1 million scale and classified Indian soils in 7 Orders, 21 Sub-orders and 62 Great-groups as per US Soil Taxonomy (Annexure I).
- (b) The soils deficient in vital nutrients in different districts of various states/UTs in the country are given in Annexure II.
- (c) In order to replenish fertility of soils in the country, the Government under the component of soil health management of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture is promoting soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through setting-up/strengthening of soil testing laboratories, establishment of bio-fertilizer and compost units, use of micronutrients, trainings and demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers. 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.
- (d) The Agriculture Research Institutes/Universities are mainly mandated with developing technologies to maintain soil health and do not undertake monitoring of soil health in the country on regular basis.
- (e) During the last three years and the current year, the universities and institutes have developed crop and site specific soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management practices to maintain sound soil health for higher crop productivity in the country. Improved technologies for preparation of various types of organic manures such as phosphocompost, vermi compost, municipal solid waste compost, bio-enriched compost etc. from various organic wastes have also been developed. Besides, efficient strains of biofertilizers specific to different crops and soil types have been developed.
