

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3655

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2015

Assistance for Reclamation of Soil Health

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of various programmes under implementation for reclamation and management of soil health and its producers in the country and the success achieved thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has commissioned any study to identify the main reasons for loss of fertility of soil, land degradation and conversion of fertile land into barren land in various parts of the country including Karnataka;
- (c) if so, the details and the findings thereof along with the number of soil testing laboratories set up for the purpose in the country, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has received proposals from States for financial assistance for reclamation and improvement of soil health; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the funds allocated, released and utilized for the purpose during the said period, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

श्री मोहनभाई कुन्दरिया (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) to (c): Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture launched a National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility (NPMSH&F) in 2008-09 to promote soil test based balanced & judicious use of fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures and

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bio-fertilizers to increase soil fertility and productivity across the country. NPMSH&F has been subsumed under Soil Health Management (SHM) as one of the components of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) launched in April, 2014, being implemented across the country including Karnataka. SHM aims at promotion of integrated nutrient management through judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micro nutrients in conjunction with organic manures for improving soil health and its productivity; including strengthening of soil testing facilities to provide soil test based recommendations to farmers for improving soil fertility. State-wise funds released in last three years (2012-13 to 2014-15) and allocation of fund during current year (2015-16) is at Annexure-I.

Department of Agricultural Research & Education - Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture has conducted various studies and reported that inadequate and imbalanced use of nutrients and low use of organic manures have lead to deterioration of soil health including multi-nutrient deficiencies affecting crop yields. Accordingly, State governments have been provided Central Assistance under NPMSH&F/SHM for setting-up static & mobile soil testing laboratories across the country to ensure soil test based balanced use of both inorganic and organic fertilizers for management of soil health and fertility. State-wise details of Soil Testing Laboratories established is at Annexure-II.

(d) & (e): Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture has received various proposals for seeking financial assistance for improvement of soil health and fertility. State-wise details of funds released (2012-15) and allocation during current year(2015-16) is also given in Annexure-I. Besides, various interventions have been intensified under ongoing schemes/programmes/missions, namely, National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Farms and Oilpalm (NMOOP), National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET), Mission of Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) etc. for sustaining soil fertility and food grain production in the country.