

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4870
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014
SALINISATION OF AGRICULTURAL FIELDS
Kothapalli Smt. Geetha

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the salinisation of agricultural fields is increasing in various parts in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the corrective steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Salinity in the soil has increased mainly due to imbalanced and indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers, excessive use of irrigation water coupled with low addition of organic matter, micro and secondary nutrients over the years in many parts of the country. As available estimates of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR-2010), an area of about 2.73 million hectare is affected by salinity across the country.

(c): Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture has launched a National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), which envisages reclamation of problem ((Alkali/Saline and Acid) soils 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 also implementing various Schemes/Missions namely; Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm (NMOOP), etc. which do have components for addressing the issue of reducing the effect of salinity for sustainable agricultural production across the country.