

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:88
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2014
FERTILITY OF SOIL
Dubey Shri Nishikant

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the mechanism put in place to evaluate and monitor the fertility of soil across the country;
- (b) whether the Government has launched any schemes/projects to check the declining fertility of soil in all the States in the country including Jharkhand;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to train/educate farmers on balanced use of fertilizers in crop productivity; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the schemes run by the Government for the purpose?

Answer

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

(a):The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under its All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Long Term Fertilizer Experiments is evaluating and monitoring changes in soil fertility under different NPK fertilizer treatment combinations imposed on different soil type of the country under dominant cropping systems. These are all fixed sites experiments.

(b) & (c):National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility (now subsumed as Soil Health Management component under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture from 2014-15) was launched during 2008-09 to promote soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity in all states including Jharkhand.

Under the project, Jharkhand State has been sanctioned and amount of `512.41 lakh during 2009-10 and 2013-14 for setting up of 8 new Static Soil Testing Laboratories

(STLs), 3 New Mobile STLs, 1 New Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratory, strengthening of 8 static STLs 8 trainings for STL staff, 8 farmers trainings, 8 field demonstrations and 80 frontline field demonstrations.

(d) & (e):To train and educate farmers, on balanced use of fertilizers in crop productivity, financial assistance is provided under Soil Health Management (SHM) component of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), for farmers' training including field demonstrations @ `10,000/- per training for 20 participants and for frontline field demonstrations @ `20,000/- per demonstration. Under the scheme, 934 farmers trainings, 1109 field demonstration and 707 frontline field demonstrations have been sanctioned upto 2013-14.

Apart from above, ICAR also educate farmers on various aspects on Balanced and Integrated Nutrient Management through trainings/frontline demonstrations (FLDs) time to time.