

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1964
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.03.2017

Lowering Soil & Water PH

1964. SHRI S. RAJENDRAN :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the lowering of soil and water PH due to acid precipitation is disrupting the eco-system and causing threat to aquatic plant and animal; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to improve the condition?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

- (a)&(b) The pH condition of soil is one of several environmental conditions that affect the quality of plant growth. A near neutral or slightly acidic soil pH of 6.0 to 7.0 is generally considered ideal for the majority of plants. In highly acidic soils, Calcium, Phosphorous and Magnesium get tied up and are unavailable, while Manganese can be concentrated in toxic levels. At pH values of 7 and above, Phosphorus, Iron, Copper, Zinc, Boron and Manganese become less available. Steps taken to control water and air pollution, which may affect the soil pH *inter alia* include, formulation and notification of standards for emissions and effluents from industries, operations or processes which are enforced by concerned State Pollution Control Board/ Pollution Control Committee (SPCB/ PCC) through consent mechanism and through regular monitoring, setting up of monitoring network for assessment of air and water quality, setting up of sewage treatment plants by local bodies, etc.
