

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION & FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 7
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11TH DECEMBER, 2018

IMPACT OF PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS ON SOIL FERTILITY

*7. SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers is adversely affecting the fertility of agricultural land in several States of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also true that about 75 per cent arable land in the country is adversely affected by excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and that the level of toxin is high;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) the remedial steps taken by the Government for safe and judicious application of crop protecting chemicals and green chemistry; and
- (e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to detoxify poisoned farmlands in the country within a time-frame?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 7 DUE FOR REPLY ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2018.

(a) to (c): The use of fertilizers and pesticides beyond the permissible limit is likely to affect the soil fertility of the agricultural land. However, no specific data is available with this Department regarding agricultural land affected due to excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

(d) to (e): The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has established 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) across the Country. These CIPMCs, inter alia, conduct Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) to sensitize farmers on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach, and safe and judicious use of chemical pesticides as a last resort as per approved labels and leaflets. In the last three years, a total of 2043 FFSs have been organized for sensitizing farmers.

In addition, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has established National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM) as an autonomous body. The National Institute of Plant Health Management is mandated to promote environmentally sustainable Plant Health Management practices in diverse and changing agro-climatic conditions, Bio security & Incursion Management through capacity building programmes for farmers and State Agriculture/Extension functionaries. Regular advisories on pest management are being shared with the States for their timely dissemination to the farmers through their extension functionaries. The State Governments through various forums such as Zonal Conferences and National Conference are requested to exhort their extension functionaries to educate and impart training to farmers on efficacious and sustainable pest management strategies and approaches.

Furthermore, the Department is implementing 'Soil Health Management' (SHM) 'Soil Health Card', 'Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana' (PKVY) and 'Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region' (MOVCDNER) Schemes to improve soil fertility. Under the Soil Health Management Scheme, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) is being promoted, inter alia, through capacity development programmes for farmers, extension functionaries and soil testing laboratory staff. In addition, Soil Health Card are being provided to all the farmers in the country. These health card provide information on nutrient status of soil and recommends appropriate dosages. Under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), organic farming is promoted with an aim to develop sustainable models of farming through a mix of traditional wisdom and modern science to ensure, inter alia, long term soil fertility buildup, incentivizing production of Bio-fertilizers and resource conservation. In addition, a Central Government scheme called Gobardhan Yojana has also been launched focusing on managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste from farms and fields to useful compost for, inter alia, improving soil fertility.
