

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3360
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21st MARCH, 2023

SOIL DEGENERATION

3360. SHRI GNANATHIRAVIAM S.:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers has caused various degenerations in the soil;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that treatment of soil is required to enhance the agro-productivity in the country; and

(d) if so, the total number of laboratories working for soil testing in the country till March 2010, and the testing capacity thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): As such, there is no harmful effect of chemical fertilizers with balanced and judicious use as per recommendations. However, imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter over years may cause multi-nutrient deficiencies in soil. There is also possibility of nitrate contamination in groundwater above the permissible limit of 10 mg NO₃-N/L due to excessive use of nitrogenous fertilizers particularly in light textured soils. Government is making endeavour to promote judicious use of chemical fertilizers, bio-fertilizers and locally available organic manures. To achieve this objective, Government is implementing Soil Health Card Scheme since 2015 to provide soil test based fertilizer use recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied periodically to the farmers for improving soil health and its agro-productivity.

Demonstrations about balanced use of fertilizers based on soil health card recommendations and training to the farmers on proper and integrated use of fertilizers are integral part of the scheme. Government of India is providing financial assistance to the State Governments for training of farmers, demonstration on farmer fields and organizing farmer melas. Since 2015, around 6.45 lakh demonstrations, 93781 farmers' trainings and 7425 farmers melas are organized/conducted under the programme. State/District agriculture machinery and panchayats, village level rural development workers are involved in educating farmers on the right use of fertilizers. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also imparts training, organizes from line demonstrations to educate farmers on all these aspects. Farmers are also being encouraged to use technology i.e. drones etc. in fertilizer application in order to ensure optimal use of fertilizer.

For development of sustainable agriculture Government has been promoting organic farming in the country since 2015-16 through the schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER). Both the schemes promote use of bio fertilizers and organic fertilizers for adoption of organic farming and end to end support to farmers engaged in organic farming i.e. from production to processing, certification and marketing and post-harvest management support including processing. PKVY is being implemented in all the States other-than North Eastern (NE) States, across the country. MOVCDNER scheme is implemented exclusively in the NE States. Under PKVY, farmers are provided financial assistance of Rs.50000/ha for 3 years out of which, Rs.31000/ ha / 3 years is provided as incentives directly to farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for on-farm and off-farm organic inputs including bio-fertilizers and organic fertilizers. Whereas, under MOVCDNER, an assistance of Rs.46575/ha for 3years is provided for creation of Farmer Producer Organization (FPO), support to farmers for organic inputs, quality seeds/ planting material and training, hand holding and certification, out of which Rs.32500/ ha for 3years is provided as incentives to farmers for off-farm and on-farm organic inputs including bio-fertilizers and organic fertilizers.

511 static soil testing laboratories (analyzing capacity @ 10000 samples per annum per laboratory), 123 mobile soil testing laboratories (analyzing capacity @ 5000 samples per annum per laboratory), 8811 mini soil testing laboratories (analyzing capacity @ 3000 samples per annum per laboratory) and 2395 village level soil testing laboratories (analyzing capacity @ 3000 samples per annum per laboratory) have been sanctioned under the scheme to States since the launch of the scheme i.e. from the year 2015.
