

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1411**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

**DAMAGE TO SOIL**

1411. SHRI MAHESH SAHOO:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that farm lands are getting polluted through various reasons and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted studies to figure out the extent of damage to soil from pollution and if so, the details of the finding, if any; and
- (c) if not, whether the Government will try to determine the same as the farm produces are consumed by the people and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a) to (c): Information has been generated on various aspects of pollution affecting soil by several researchers. It indicates that soil resources are facing threats from deliberate use of contaminated organics, amendment materials, atmospheric depositions, spillage of effluents etc. Nature of pollutants varies from salts, toxic metals, metalloids, persistent organics with varying degree of toxicity and may be of both industrial and geogenic origins.

National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM), Hyderabad has conducted a study on '**Impact of Indiscriminate use of Chemical Fertilizers and Pesticides**' in 2018-19. The study revealed that organic fertilizer and balanced use of

chemical fertilizers can shape microbial composition and recruit beneficial bacteria into the rhizosphere of soil who provide a promising strategy to food crops by treatment with organic fertilizers and IPM practices.

The Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through soil testing and generating soil health card to give recommendations about judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micronutrients in conjunction with organic manures & bio-fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity. Government is also providing financial support to states under Soil Health & Fertility scheme for reclamation of problem soil to make the barren land fertile.

Further, the Government has also enacted “The Environment (Protection) Act” in 1986 and the last amended in 1991 with the objective of providing for the protection and improvement of the environment including water, air and land.

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