

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2857**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2025

**SOIL DEGRADATION**

2857. SMT. SANJNA JATAV:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Soil degradation which is affecting 30% of India's cultivable land is posing a significant threat through erosion, salination and fertility loss; and
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government along with the measures to be taken to safeguard soil quality for sustainable agriculture?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): Government is aware of concern on soil quality degradation. To address the same, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) recommends soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management. ICAR has suggested combined use of both inorganic and organic sources (manure, biofertilizers etc.) of plant nutrients and location specific soil & water conservation measures for preventing deterioration of soil health and fertility. Government is implementing Soil Health and Fertility Scheme to assist State Governments to issue Soil Health Cards (SHCs) to farmers in the country. SHCs assist in promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micro nutrients along with organic manures & bio-fertilizers, for improving soil health and fertility. 24.84 crore Soil Health Cards have been generated under the Scheme till date. Under Soil Health & Fertility Scheme, 7 Lakh demonstrations, 93,781 farmer's training programmes and 7,425 farmer's mela have been organized on the balanced use of fertilizers to improve soil quality. Advisories are issued to farmers through Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). In addition, 70,002 Krishi Sakhis are trained to issue soil health card advisories.

ICAR is promoting use of organic fertilizers to improve / sustain soil health viz. farm yard manure, compost, vermicompost, green manure, oil / concentrated cakes, biofertilizers, biogas wastes etc. are usually used in agriculture through demonstrations, public

campaigns, training and media. In order to promote biofertilizer use, ICAR has developed improved and efficient strains of biofertilizers specific to different crops and soil types under Network project on Soil Biodiversity-Biofertilizers.

Government is promoting organic farming on priority in the country for improving soil health and water retention through of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) in all the States/UTs and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER). Financial assistance is provided for on-farm/off farm organic inputs majority biofertilisers under the schemes. National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) is implemented to promote livestock integrated farming, involving practices such as use of biomass mulching, multi-cropping system, use of on-farm made natural farming bio-inputs for improving soil organic content, soil structure, nutrition, enhancing soil water holding capacity.

Apart from above, National Centre of Organic Natural Farming (NCONF) regularly organises training programs, exposure visits, workshops (Kisan Melas) etc. to sensitize farmers on soil conservation techniques such as crop rotation, residue management, and sustainable farming practices. These initiatives encourage farmers to adopt organic and natural farming methods to enhance soil health and long-term agricultural productivity.

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