

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Experiments conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) indicated that non-judicious and imbalanced use of inorganic fertilizers (NPK) over years may result in deterioration of soil fertility/nutrient deficiencies.

In order to promote judicious use of chemical fertilizers, Government is advocating soil test based balanced and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources of plant nutrients like Farm Yard Manure (FYM), compost, bio-fertilizers and green manuring.

The Government has launched the “National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility” during 2008-09 to promote soil test based judicious use of fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity. The scheme includes setting up of new Static/Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories, strengthening of existing soil testing laboratories, training of soil testing laboratory staff/extension officers/farmers, field demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers, promoting use of organic manure, soil amendments and micronutrients.

Reduction in consumption of pulses

†1870. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that out of kharif and rabi crops, the production of pulses in the country is estimated to be around 18-19 million tonnes;
- (b) if not, the estimates in this regard;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that consumption of pulses has continuously been declining in last few years; and
- (d) if so, the quantity of pulses consumed in the country in the year 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the 4 advance estimates released on 19.07.2010, total production (kharif+rabi) of pulses in the country during 2009-10 is estimated at 14.59 million tonnes.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. As per the Consumer Expenditure Surveys of National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), total consumption of pulses in the country (based on the estimated *per capita* consumption during 2004-05 (latest available) have increased from 10.91 million tonnes in 2008 to 11.06 million tonnes in 2009.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.