

Decline in soil fertility

†1399. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that soil fertility in the country is decreasing due to large scale use of chemical fertilizers;

(b) whether it is a fact that in view of food security, there is need to encourage organic fertilizers to preserve land fertility; and

(c) if so, the steps taken so far for organic farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) There is no scientific evidence of declining soil fertility and productivity with judicious use of chemical fertilizers. However, imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers with low addition of organic matter and lack of micro and secondary nutrients have resulted in nutrient deficiencies and deterioration of soil health in intensively cultivated areas.

(b) Integrated use of chemical fertilizers and organic manure can maintain soil health and give higher sustainable yields.

(c) Government is promoting integrated nutrient management involving soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers and locally available organic manures. Government is also promoting organic farming through various schemes. Under National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) scheme, efforts are made to create technical capacity, facilitate production of organic inputs and their standardization, and human resource development. States are supported under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) schemes for setting up of organic inputs production units and certification.

Impact of climate change on food

1400. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is prepared for long-term impacts of climate change on food production according to the standards of Food and Agriculture Organisation of UNO;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) The Government has undertaken initiatives to address the impact of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.