

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1302
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.03.2025**

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF DECLINING SOIL QUALITY IN KARNATAKA

1302 SHRI IRANNA KADADI:

Will the **Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has conducted studies on the impact of declining soil organic carbon levels in Karnataka on human health, particularly concerning the nutritional quality of food crops;
- (b) if so, the key findings of these studies and their implications for public health in the region;
- (c) whether there are initiatives to educate farmers and the public about the health risks associated with the overuse of chemical fertilizers and the benefits of sustainable farming practices; and
- (d) if so, the details of such initiatives and their implementation status in Karnataka?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY
WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (d): As informed by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on the basis of inputs provided by Government of Karnataka, State Government has not conducted studies on the impact of declining soil organic carbon levels on human health, particularly concerning the nutritional quality of food crops. Initiatives to educate farmers and the public about the health risks associated with the overuse of chemical fertilizers and the benefits of sustainable farming practices are Annexed.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) & (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1302 REGARDING “HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF DECLINING SOIL QUALITY IN KARNATAKA“

- Creation of awareness on ill effects of overuse of chemical fertilizer, proper use and to avoid indiscriminate use, trainings on safe and judicious use of fertilizers are conducted for farmers and fertilizer manufacturers/dealers at Hobli, Taluka and District levels regularly.
- Folders, leaflets and handouts in regional language are printed & distributed to farmers. Posters printed in local language are displayed in palaces where farmers visit frequently.
- Publicity is given through All India Radio, Press and Doordarshan about timely application and suitable precautionary measures to be taken while using fertilizers.
- Campaigning on grow safe food is also conducted in districts to create awareness.
- Establishment of Mobile Plant Health Clinics at each districts of the state to provide the technical information including the judicious and balanced use of fertilizers.
- Government of Karnataka has established Raitha Samarka Kendra at sub block level to provide technical advice to farmers on sustainable cultivation of crops.
- Promotion of organic farming as well as integrated nutrient management in the state by providing the organic inputs at subsidised rates. Organic manure, bio-fertilizers and green manure seeds are also provided to farmers at subsidised rates to promote organic farming and to reduce use of chemical fertilisers.