

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1892
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2003
AGRICULTURAL LAND
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether agricultural lands are becoming deficient in organic matter, carbon contents and micro nutrients;
- (b) whether the organic matter which was about 2% has come down to about 0.3% and eight nutrients viz copper, iron, phosphorus, zinc, potassium, sulphur manganese, boron have also shown a declining trend;
- (c) whether the Government are aware that the deficiency of micro-nutrients through food chain is also appearing in human beings and animals with severe consequences; and
- (d) if so, the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): The Indian soils are generally poor in organic matter (Organic Carbon less than 0.5%). There are instances of falling organic carbon contents and decline in some major and micro nutrients in soils in certain parts of the country especially, rice-wheat belts of Indo-gangetic plains due to nonjudicious and imbalanced use of fertilizers and limited use of organic manures.

(c): Deficiency of micronutrients through food chain normally do not develop deficiency disorders in animals except of Iodine in human beings.

(d): Government is promoting the soil test based judicious & balanced use of chemical fertilizers including micronutrients in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers to cope up with the emerging situation. Also the Government has introduced the sale of universal iodised salt throughout the country to overcome the Iodine deficiency in human beings. It also advocates the use of feed supplements containing required micronutrients to animals to avoid deficiency disorders.