GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:617
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2005
MICRONUTRIENTS IN SOIL OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
Chandel Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the report of Indian Council of Agricultural Research of September, 1998 in which it has been reported that the nine micronutrients in the soil of Punjab and Haryana are constantly depleting;

(b) if so, the other details of the report;

(c) whether due to the imbalance in the food cycle and deficiency of zinc therein, the rural people are suffering from diabetes; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the same and improve the food cycle?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 617 DUE FOR REPLY ON 9TH MAY, 2005.

(a)&(b): The Micronutrients deficiencies in soils of Punjab and Haryana are becoming evident in the wake of intensive cropping particularly in rice-wheat system that has resulted in removal of micronutrient elements from the soils at a rate more than their replenishment. As per the report of the Fact Finding Committee of Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) May 1998, there is a general assessment that several important crops are suffering from micronutrient deficiencies particularly zinc copper, iron and manganese. Crops remove substantial quantities of major nutrients such as Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K) and Sulphur (S) and micronutrients such as zinc, manganese, iron, boron and copper. Over time there has been substantial nutrient deficiencies in the soil of both States.

(c): Prevalence of type 2 diabetes is increasing globally and the increase in India has been significant in recent years. Latest figures indicate that prevalence of type 2 diabetes is higher in urban population (9.3 to 16.6%) than rural population (2.8 to 3.2%). Prevalence of type 2 diabetes can not be attributed to zinc deficiency per se in the food chain and could also be due to the changing life style and dietary habits.

(d): The Government is promoting `Integrated Nutrient Management` (INM) which includes soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic fertilizers, like farm yard manures, green manure, phospho compost, vermicompost, bio- fertilizers etc. for balanced fertilization.