

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:788
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2006
SOIL FERTILITY IN DROUGHT PRONE AREAS .
Athithan Shri Dhanuskodi

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether frequent droughts in a region adversely affects the fertility of the soil, eventually affecting productivity;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve soil fertility in such regions;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to launch a special scheme for the drought-prone area in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof? ANSWER

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

- (a): In general, the occurrence of drought does not have significant effect on diminishing the soil fertility in short run. However, frequent droughts in a region can have adverse effect on soil fertility by way of
 - (i) reduced bio-mass production,
 - (ii) fast decomposition of organic matter,
 - (iii) poor bio-activity in the Rhizosphere and
 - (iv) deterioration of soil structure and water holding capacity etc.
- (b): The Central Research Institute for Dry land Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad and its net work of 25 All India Coordinated Research Project on Dry land Agriculture (AICRPDA) Centers provide technical support to the State Governments by way of training, exposure and visits on managing soil fertility during drought through various technologies in different agro-ecological regions.
- (c)&(d): No such proposal has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu.