

**1. EXPLAIN THE CHARACTERISTICS AND PRODUCTIVITY OF THE 'REGUR' BLACK SOILS OF INDIA.**

**Answer:**

**INTRO :** Black cotton soil or 'Regur' has developed over Deccan lavas, gneisses and granites under semi-arid conditions and they occupy major areas of Maharashtra, Gujarat, MP, Karnataka, Andhra, Tamil Nadu, UP and Rajasthan.

**CONTENT:**

**Characteristics**

They vary in colour from deep black through light black to chestnut. The black colour is attributed to the presence of compounds of iron and aluminium, accumulated humus and colloidal hydrated double iron and aluminium silicate.

They are usually deficient in nitrogen, phosphoric acid and organic matter.

They are rich in potash, lime, aluminium, calcium and magnesium.

Somewhat sandy, shallow and poor in fertility on uplands and darker, deeper and richer in valley and lowlands

They are sticky when wet and develop deep wide cracks on drying which helps in the process of absorption of nitrogen from the atmosphere.

An extreme degree of moisture retentiveness

**Productivity**

Black soils are well-known for their fertility. They give reasonably good yields despite continued cultivation and without proper manuring. Since the content water soluble salts is high, they are unsuitable for heavy irrigation, cotton, cereals and oil seeds, many kinds of vegetables and citrus fruits are well-suited to black soils. Very good results have also been obtained in crops like sugarcane and tobacco.

**CONCLUSION:** On account, of their moisture retentive qualities the black soils are really suited for dry farming. In fact, they add plenty to flourishing agriculture in India.