

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1297
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18TH DECEMBER, 2018

SOIL HEALTH CARDS

1297. SHRI RAJU SHETTY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of soil samples taken for soil health cards;
- (b) the number of soil health cards handed over to farmers;
- (c) the expenditure incurred thereon during the last four years;
- (d) whether any survey was done after issuing these soil health cards to ascertain the number of farmers who actually benefited from these statistical information; and
- (e) whether any extension activity campaign was started to help farmers after issuing these cards and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) & (b): During the 1st Cycle (2015-16 & 2016-17) 253.49 lakh soil samples were collected and 1073.89 lakh soil health cards were distributed to farmers. During the 2nd Cycle (2017-18 & 2018-19) as on 11.12.2018, 255.48 lakh soil samples have been collected and 643.25 lakh soil health cards have been distributed to farmers.

(c): From 2014-15 to 2017-18, a sum of Rs.40677.00 lakh has been released to State Governments for implementation of the soil health card scheme.

(d) & (e): National Productivity Council (NPC) has done a study on 'Soil Testing Infrastructure for Faster Delivery of Soil Health Cards in India' and found that as a result of application of fertilizers as per recommendations of soil health card, there is a decrease in use of chemical fertilizers in the range of 8-10% and increase in yield of crops to the tune of 5-6%.

All Crop development Directorates of department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) and Project Management Cell of Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) Division undertake field visits regularly to monitor the progress at field level.

The extension activities to help farmers after issue of soil health cards are farmers training, demonstration on farmer's field, farmer's mela/camps, promotion of micronutrients and workshops to be organized by State Governments.
