

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3910
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22ND DECEMBER, 2015

FERTILITY OF SOIL

3910. SHRI HARISH CHANDRA ALIAS HARISH DWIVEDI:
SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI:
SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA:
SHRI PREM DAS RAI:
SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY:
SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI:
SHRI ALOK SANJAR:
SHRI SIRAJUDDIN AJMAL:
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:
SHRI ANTO ANTONY:
SHRI V. PANNEERSELVAM:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to evaluate fertility of soil and set up a periodical's camps in villages for full exploitation of agricultural soil in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of new soil testing technology developed for the purpose and the ratio of farmers to soil testing labs in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to give impetus to the Soil Health Card Scheme through organization of Krishak Melas and Seminars in various parts of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to make the said Scheme accessible to the common farmers; and
- (e) whether the Government has launched any campaign/programme to educate the farmers on usage of chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides to protect the agriculture from adverse impacts of such inputs and if so, the details thereof and the success achieved therefrom?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) & (b): 'Soil Health Card' (SHC) scheme has been introduced from 2014-15 to assist State Governments to evaluate fertility in all 14 crore farm holdings and issue soil health cards to farmers regularly in a cycle of 3 years. Soil health cards provide information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

Under Soil Health Management (SHM) scheme, setting up of 103 new static and 77 new mobile soil testing laboratories have been sanctioned during 2014-15 and 2015-16.

State-wise statement on number of existing soil testing laboratories and number of farm holdings is given at **Annexure**.

(c) & (d): To give impetus to the 'Soil Health Card' scheme, soil health card campaign across the country was organized through print advertisements in local and national news papers, video spots and radio jingles. 'World Soil Day' was celebrated on 5th December 2015 at state, district, block and village levels. Several Union Ministers and Members of Parliament have participated in the event across the country. All the State Governments distributed soil health cards and organized workshops, seminars, rallies on the occasion. Regional Workshops to sensitise and activate States have been organized at Lucknow (UP), Bangalore (Karnataka), Dispur (Assam), Patna (Bihar) and one more to be organized at Raipur (Chhattisgarh). Funds amounting to Rs. 73 crore have been earmarked for Information Education and Communication (IEC) publicity. Campaign has been planned to be covered in electronic and print media.

(e): To educate the farmers on usage of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and protect agriculture from adverse impacts of such inputs, following steps have been taken:-

(i) Government is recommending soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of inorganic and organic sources of plant nutrient management to sustain good soil health.

(ii) Under Soil Health Management (SHM) component of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), financial assistance for training to farmers including field demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers is provided @ Rs. 10,000/- per training for 20 or more participants. Financial assistance for frontline field demonstration is also provided @ Rs. 20,000/- per demonstration. So far 1568 Farmers trainings, 1259 demonstrations and 977 Frontline field demonstrations have been sanctioned under the scheme.

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(iii) In addition Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also impart training, organizes front line demonstrations to educate farmers on this aspect.

(iv) Under the scheme 'Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India' farmers are educated to adopt Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as cardinal principle and main plank of plant protection strategy in overall crop production programme. Under the ambit of IPM programme, the Government of India has established 31 Central IPM Centres which conduct Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) to educate farmers about mechanical, cultural and biological control measures including use of biopesticides against different crop pests and weeds and judicious use of chemical pesticides as a measure of last resort.

(v) The Insecticides Act 1968 and the Rules framed thereunder mandate that pesticides are registered for use in agriculture in india only after a detailed evaluation of safety. Once registered, a pesticide is legally obligated to display and carry approved labels and leaflets containing critical information on safe use of pesticides for the benefit of farmers & extension functionaries etc. Application of pesticides in accordance with instructions on the label and leaflets is not likely to cause any harm to human health.

Annexure**State-wise Number of Soil Testing Laboratories and number of land holdings**

Sl. No	State	Number of STLs	Number of land holdings
South Zone			
1	Andhra Pradesh	88	131.75
2	Karnataka	64	78.32
3	Kerala	26	68.31
4	Tamil Nadu	48	81.18
5	Puducherry	2	0.33
6	A&N Island	0	0.12
	Total	228	360.01
West Zone			
7	Gujarat	139	48.86
8	Madhya Pradesh	63	88.72
9	Maharashtra	158	136.99
10	Rajasthan	59	68.88
11	D&N Haveli	0	0.15
12	Chhattisgarh	13	37.46
13	Goa	2	0.78
	Total	434	381.84
North Zone			
14	Haryana	40	16.17
15	Punjab	71	10.53
16	Uttarakhand	16	9.13
17	Uttar Pradesh	281	233.25
18	Himachal Pradesh	15	9.61
19	Jammu & Kashmir	13	14.49
20	Delhi	1	0.2
	Total	437	293.38
East Zone			
21	Bihar	39	161.91
22	Jharkhand	8	27.09
23	Odisha	24	46.67
24	West Bengal	20	71.23
	Total	91	306.9
NE Zone			
25	Assam	11	27.2
26	Tripura	6	5.78
27	Manipur	8	1.51
28	Meghalaya	6	2.1
29	Nagaland	3	1.78
30	Arunachal Pradesh	8	1.09
31	Sikkim	6	0.75
32	Mizoram	6	0.92
	Total	54	41.13
	Grand Total	1244	1383.26

