

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 39

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5th DECEMBER, 2023

NATIONAL MISSION ON SOIL HEALTH CARD

*39. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:

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

- (a) the total number of Soil Health Cards issued by the Government under the National Mission on Soil Health Card till date, State/UT-wise especially in the State of Punjab;
- (b) whether adequate measures are being taken by the Government to facilitate soil testing at the district and block levels;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has a robust monitoring mechanism to ensure regular testing of soil and providing information to farmers about proper usage of fertilizers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

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

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 39 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 5th DECEMBER, 2023 REGARDING NATIONAL MISSION ON SOIL HEALTH CARD.

(a): Soil Health Card/ Soil Health Management Schemes under National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility are implemented through the State Government since 2014-15. Now, this scheme has been merged in Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana as Soil Health & Fertility component from year 2022-23. Under the scheme, since, 2014-15, so far 23.59 crore soil health cards have been issued across the country including Punjab. So far as Punjab is concerned, 26.20 lakh soil health cards have been issued in the state. The State-wise details of number of Soil Health Cards issued under the scheme, including Punjab, are at **Annexure-I**.

(b) & (c) : The Government is taking adequate measures to facilitate soil testing at the district and block levels. Under the scheme, financial assistance of Rs. 75 lakh per lab is provided for setting up static and mobile soil testing labs. There is also provision to provide Rs. 1.50 lakh for setting up Village Level Soil Testing Labs (VLSTLs) at village / Gram Panchayat level. Since, 2014-15, total 8272 Soil Testing Labs (1068 Static, 163 Mobile, 6376 Mini labs and 665 Village Level labs) have been established in States. In addition, 1076 Mini Soil Testing labs have also been established in Krishi Vigyan Kendras and other institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Further to involve other stakeholders and to facilitate soil testing at block and village level close to the farmers filed, Village Level Soil Testing Labs (VLSTLs) are set up by entrepreneurs, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farm Producing Organizations (FPO), Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) etc.

(d) & (e): Government is monitoring the scheme implementation through Soil Health Card portal (<https://www.soilhealth.dac.gov.in>), which is updated on real time basis. A mobile app is used which capture geo-tagging to develop a national soil fertility map on a Geographic Information System platform. The Soil Health Card Portal has been revamped for uploading test reports directly on portal. The soil health card generated directly accessed by farmers through mobile app and sms. Soil testing laboratories are mapped on portal with geo-coordinates.

Progress of the scheme against the target set in Annual Action Plan is reviewed regularly through video conferences, physical meetings, State visits etc.

Crop based fertilizer usage advisories as per soil health cards are issued to farmers through State Governments, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and Agriculture Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) Network from time to time. The Demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers, based on soil health card recommendations and training to the farmers on proper & integrated use of fertilizers are integral part of the scheme. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also imparts training, organizes front line demonstrations to educate farmers on these aspects. The Rural Awareness Works Experience (RAWWE) programme is restructured for Agriculture graduates to generate awareness among farmers on use of soil health card for addressing soil health.

Since 2015, around 6.45 lakh demonstrations, 93781 farmer's trainings and 7425 farmers melas have been organized through the State Governments under the Scheme.

Annexure-I

State-wise details of number of Soil Health Cards issued under the scheme

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Total
1	Andaman & Nicobar	26,397
2	Andhra Pradesh	1,46,31,164
3	Arunachal Pradesh	70,273
4	Assam	26,64,958
5	Bihar	1,46,69,629
6	Chhattisgarh	94,71,122
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	1,57,97
8	Goa	54,015
9	Gujarat	1,39,32,091
10	Haryana	84,15,715
11	Himachal Pradesh	13,71,653
12	Jammu & Kashmir	21,16,492
13	Ladakh	1,718
14	Jharkhand	9,25,359
15	Karnataka	1,70,18,659
16	Kerala	33,26,999
17	Madhya Pradesh	1,82,44,638
18	Maharashtra	2,64,57,060
19	Manipur	2,56,864
20	Meghalaya	4,37,946
21	Mizoram	30,616
22	Nagaland	2,27,988
23	Odisha	52,00,023
24	Puducherry	34,255
25	Punjab	26,19,539
26	Rajasthan	1,92,57,558
27	Sikkim	1,15,085
28	Tamil Nadu	1,41,68,507
29	Telangana	1,08,39,437
30	Tripura	3,20,558
31	Uttar Pradesh	3,77,25,218
32	Uttarakhand	16,79,779
33	West Bengal	95,54,921
Total		23,58,82,033
