

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5390

ANSWERED ON:06.09.2011

SOIL TESTING

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has prepared any plan to provide information to each farmer of the country regarding the quality of soil of his farming land;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether laboratories for testing the soil of farmers` land are established in each district of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the daily testing capacity of each laboratory?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): The soil samples of farmer's fields are tested by 715 soil testing laboratories (STLs) all over the country with total analyzing capacity of 78.32 lakh soil samples per annum in 2009-10. Based on such tests, soil health cards are also issued to farmers by State Governments.

(c) & (d): Under the 'National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility' launched during 2008-09, financial assistance has been released to States/UTs for setting up 124 new STLs and 116 Mobile STLs so far during 11th Five Year Plan to enable coverage of all districts of the country. The annual analyzing capacity of each STL is 10,000 samples and that of each mobile STL is 5,000 samples generally.