

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6327
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012
SOIL TESTING
Amlabe Shri Narayan Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government conducts soil test of arable land periodically in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and criterion thereof;
- (c) the details of the financial assistance provided to the States for the said purpose, State-wise; and
- (d) the departments and the level of employees engaged in soil testing?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic sources of nutrients to sustain and improve soil health and its productivity.

State Government Soil Testing Laboratory/Mobile Soil testing Laboratory conduct soil tests and issue soil health cards to farmers. In a few States, they charge a token amount for soil testing.

(c) & (d): Under National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility (NPMSH&F) funds are released on the basis of proposals received from the States/ implementing agencies. Funds released under the scheme since its inception is at Annexure. Government also provides financial assistance for manpower to run soil testing laboratories (STLs).