

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2590

ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012

SOIL HEALTH CARDS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide soil health cards to the farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be provided?

Answer

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

(a): The Government is according high priority to soil testing and is providing assistance to State Government/ Union Territories (UTs) for setting up Soil Testing Laboratories (STLs) for augmenting existing capacity of States for soil testing for issuing soil health cards to farmers. However, this requires effort by State Governments/ UTs in mobilizing technical manpower for soil testing and issuing soil health cards.

(b): About 488.25 lakh (Provisional) soil health cards have been distributed to farmers up to March 2012. The details of soil health cards issued in the country State- wise are annexed.

(c) : Since soil health needs to be assessed periodically, so issuing of soil health cards is a continuous, ongoing process.