

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5632
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015
SOIL HEALTH AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT
Butta Smt. Renuka;Kalvakuntla Smt. Kavitha

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has accorded high priority to soil health and nutrient management for sustainable farm growth in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to utilise Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for augmenting farm activities in the country during Twelfth Five Year Plan;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of corrective measures taken by Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. A new scheme "Soil Health Card" has been introduced in year 2014-15 to assist State Governments to issue Soil Health Card to all farmers in the country, once in every three years. Soil Health Card provides information to farmers on soil nutrient status of their soil and recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrient to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

Apart from above, Government is implementing Soil Health Management under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). Soil Health Management (SHM) aims at promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micro nutrients in conjunction with organic manures and biofertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity; strengthening of soil testing facilities to provide soil test bases recommendations to farmers for improving soil fertility; upgradation of skill and knowledge of soil testing laboratory staff, extension staff and farmers through training and demonstrations.

(c) to (e): There is no proposal to utilize Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for augmenting farm activities in the country.