

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1514  
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2014  
SOIL TESTING  
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken soil testing of cultivable and non- cultivable land in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the provisions and rules thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of shortcomings in conducting soil testing resulting in low production and productivity of crops than the capacity of land and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether stakeholders and farmers are not getting optimum benefits as a result of testing of fertility of soil and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the details of the centrally sponsored scheme introduced to improve the fertility of soil in the country?

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b): Soil Testing and distribution of soil health cards is a dynamic process carried out by the State Governments.
- (c): The State Governments are advised time to time to enhance their soil testing capacity by seeking assistance under existing schemes namely; National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and also to employ skilled staff in their laboratories.
- (d): Alongwith details of soil fertility, farmers are advised on seed variety, irrigation, crop pest and disease management etc. in order to optimize production.
- (e): The Government proposes to launch 'Soil Health Card' scheme to provide farmers with information on soil analysis and recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for cultivation of various crops. Soil health card for all farm holdings in the country is proposed at 3 years intervals so as to ensure that farmers apply the required amount of nutrients to their crops.