

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 146
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11TH DECEMBER, 2018

WORLD SOIL DAY

146. SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is going to observe World Soil Day;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the theme and focus of the event;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the aims and objectives of the event;
- (d) whether any programmes are going to be organized by the Government on this occasion and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the amount earmarked and utilized for this purpose; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase crop productivity and sustainable agriculture growth in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) to (e): December 5th is observed as World Soil Day every year. During current year (2018) various events for improving soil health and its fertility are being organized such as 7 days video / audio spot campaign on various TV channels/ FM Radio stations, online contests on poster making, slogan writing, video spots and quiz contest on MyGov portal.

Apart from this, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through its Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and State Governments observe World Soil Day through distribution of soil health cards to farmers, organizing farmer camps, workshops, exhibition etc.

State Governments have been advised to take up various activities for furtherance of the aims and objectives of the said event.

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Funds amounting to Rs. 80.97 lakh have been earmarked for the purpose.

(f): The steps taken to increase crop productivity and sustainable agriculture growth are:

(i) Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme has been introduced to assist State Governments to provide Soil Health Cards to all farmers across the country once in a cycle of 2 years. Soil Health Cards provides information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility,

(ii) ICAR has developed location specific, cost effective, eco-friendly farming practices; namely resource conservation technologies (zero tillage, laser leveling, bed planting, system of rice intensification, direct seeding of rice), climate resilient technologies, and Integrated Farming System keeping in view the farmers' resource availability.

(iii) Sub-Mission on seed and Planting Material in being implementation through State/UT Departments of Agriculture, State seed Corporations, State Seed Certification Agencies, etc. to develop/ strengthen seed sector and to enhance production and multiplication of high yielding certified/quality seeds of all agricultural crops an making it available to the farmers at affordable prices.

(iv) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) is implemented in all State/UTs for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo. The Mission envisages production and productivity improvement of horticulture through various interventions such as production of planting material, vegetable seed production, rejuvenation of senile orchards, etc.
