

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2405**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21/03/2025

**STEPS TO ADDRESS DECLINE IN ORGANIC CARBON IN SOIL**

2405. SHRI KUNWAR RATANJEET PRATAP NARAYAN SINGH

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Soil Health Cards (SHCs) that have been generated to monitor organic carbon levels in agricultural land;
- (b) the steps being taken to address the decline in organic carbon due to agricultural practices;
- (c) the manner in which Soil Health and Fertility Scheme assists farmers with Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) advisories;
- (d) whether there are plans to promote organic farming through initiatives like Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY); and
- (e) the manner in which these efforts contribute to improving soil health and sustainability in agriculture?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): Till date, 24.84 crore Soil Health Cards (SHCs) have been generated. SHCs are issued to farmers to give status of pH, electrical conductivity, available Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Sulphur, micro-nutrients (Zinc, Copper, Iron, Manganese & Boron) including Organic Carbon in the soil. Advisories are given to the farmers on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM). INM guides the farmers for judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micro nutrients along with organic manures & bio-fertilizers, for improving soil organic carbon and soil health. Farmers are also made aware of SHC recommendations through demonstration, training and melas. Around 7 lakh demonstrations, 93,781 farmer's training programmes and 7,425 farmer's mela have been organized on the balanced use of fertilizers to improve soil quality. Advisories are issued to farmers through Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). In addition, 70,002 Krishi Sakhis are trained to support farmers in understanding SHCs among other issues.

(d) & (e): Government is promoting organic farming through the scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), which provides end-to-end support to organic farmers i.e. from production to processing, certification and marketing in cluster based approach. The primary focus of the scheme is to form organic clusters in a cluster where preference is given to small and marginal farmers to help them to create a supply chain. Farmers are provided financial assistance in organic clusters for on farm & off farm organic inputs, there by encouraging sustainability in agriculture in these areas.

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