

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2443**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13/03/2026

Issuance of SHCs and its impact on fertilizers and productivity

2443. SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state?

- (a) the number of Soil Health Cards (SHCs) issued and updated in the last three years;
- (b) the evidence of reduction in fertilizer use or yield improvement based on SHC advisories; and
- (c) the findings of any evaluation of scheme effectiveness?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
(SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY)

(a) 1.73 crore Soil Health Cards (SHCs) have been issued to the farmers during the last three years i.e. 2022-23 to 2024-25.

(b) & (c) National Productivity Council (NPC), New Delhi carried out a study 'Soil Testing Infrastructure for Faster Delivery of SHC in India' in 2017 in 76 districts of 19 States covering 170 soil testing labs and 1700 farmers. It found a 8-10% decrease of chemical fertilizers as a result of application of fertilizer and micronutrients as per SHC recommendations. Overall 5-6% increase in the yield of crops was also reported, due to application of fertilizer and micronutrients as per SHC recommendation.

Impact study of Soil Health & Fertility Scheme (November 2017) was conducted by National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. As per report, about 62.8% of the farmers use fertilizers according to the recommendations on the SHC. The cost of cultivation per acre is reduced by 4 to 10 % due to lower fertilizer use. Crop yields increased for majority of the crops, although moderately. Overall, paddy farmers observed the reduction in use of urea by 9%, and Diammonium Phosphate (DAP)/Single Super Phosphate(SSP) by 7%. There was a substantial decline in fertilizer use especially urea and DAP in paddy and cotton resulting in decreased cost of cultivation per unit area.

NITI Ayog has conducted survey of schemes evaluation during 2025 and found that evidence shows that the SHC has contributed to correcting fertilizer imbalance (by reducing the excessive use of urea) and improving productivity. The scheme has also helped in achieving the broader objectives of Integrated Nutrient Management (INM). About 68.5% of the surveyed farmers reported a clear improvement in soil health after using natural inputs, while 25.7% of farmers reported marginal improvement.

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