

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 221
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 07/08/2026

SOIL HEALTH CARD SCHEME

*221. SHRI RATANJIT PRATAP NARAIN SINGH:

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

- (a) the manner in which the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme has improved soil fertility and agricultural productivity for the last three years;
- (b) the manner in which the Scheme has influenced farmers' fertilizer usage patterns and reduced dependency on chemical fertilisers;
- (c) the new initiatives or improvements being planned for the next phase of the Scheme; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Ministry to ensure that farmers understand and utilise the recommendations provided in the SHC scheme?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.221 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 07/08/2026 REGARDING SOIL HEALTH CARD SCHEME

(a) & (b): The Government is implementing Soil Health & Fertility Scheme to assist States in promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micro nutrients, in conjunction with organic manures & bio-fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity. Soil samples are processed as standard procedures and analyzed for various parameters viz, pH, electrical conductivity (EC), Organic Carbon, available Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Sulphur and micronutrients (Zinc, Copper, Iron, Manganese & Boron). Soil Health Card (SHC) provides information to farmers on soil nutrient status (low, medium & high) and recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health to increase agricultural production. Fertilizer recommendations in SHC is given based on general fertilizer recommendations prepared by respective State. Since 2014-15, 26.26 crore SHCs have been generated/ distributed as on date across the country. During the last three years from 2023-24 to 2025-26, 2.42 crore SHCs have been generated in the country. Soil Health Cards are generated in 10 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English so that farmers can better understand the SHC. SHC now provides recommendations on organic fertilizers, bio-fertilizers and natural farming inputs alongwith chemical fertilizers to help farmers to adopt sustainable agricultural practices. SHC provides fertilizer recommendations for six crops and valid for 3 years. Advisories are issued to farmers through Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs).

An impact study of Soil Health & Fertility scheme (November 2017) was conducted by National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. The major findings indicate that there is reduction in fertilizer use, especially Nitrogen and increase in bio-fertilizers and other micro-nutrients use. Overall, paddy farmers reduced use of urea by 9%, Di Ammonium Phosphate / Single Super Phosphate by 7% but increased use of Potassium by 20%. Balanced use of fertilizers is gaining ground as per the findings.

National Productivity Council carried out a study on 'Soil Testing Infrastructure for Faster Delivery of Soil Health Card in India' in 2017. The study found that application of fertilizer and micronutrients based on SHC recommendations resulted in 8-10% of savings and overall increase in the yield of crops to the tune of 5-6%.

NITI Ayog has conducted survey of schemes evaluation during 2025 and reported that Soil Health Card (SHC) with crop –specific fertilizer recommendations was found to be effective in optimizing nutrient use. 63.78 % farmers who applied recommendations of SHCs, reported a

significant improvement in fertilizer efficiency or yield. These findings highlight the value of site – specific nutrient management in improving productivity and resource efficiency. About 68.5% of the surveyed farmers reported a clear improvement in soil health after using natural inputs.

(c) & (d) : Under the Scheme, around 7.17 Lakh demonstrations, 130627 farmer's training programmes and 7,425 farmer's mela/ campaigns have been organized to facilitate that farmers understand and utilise the recommendations provided in the SHC. In addition, 70,002 Krishi Sakhis are trained to support farmers in understanding SHCs among other issues. Further, school soil health programme has been started since 2023-24, wherein students participates in soil sample collections, testing, SHC generation and providing advisory to farmers. Under the programme 2015 soil labs have been established in Kendriya Vidyalaya, Navodaya Vidyalaya, Eklavya Model Residential Schools, States Government Schools, and PM Shri Schools. SHC now provides recommendations specific for natural farming and organic farming. SHC provides nutrient status of soil of natural farmers and also suggest natural farming inputs based on soil testing for natural farming in clusters. 19.37 lakh soil samples of natural farmers have been collected since, 2025-26 till date and 14.57 lakh SHCs have been generated thereof. Further, provisions have been made in beneficiary linked schemes of agriculture to generate SHC so that farmers are encouraged to generate SHC and follow the recommendations.

Rural Agriculture Work Experience (RAWE) Programme is a component of the Student READY (Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojana) launched on 25 July 2015. The objective of the programme to provide undergraduate agriculture students with practical exposure to village conditions and farming systems and enable students to work with farm families, identify field-level problems, and disseminate improved agricultural technologies through extension approaches. During 2021–22 to 2025–26, the programme benefited 1,05,329 undergraduate students from 62 agricultural universities across 22 States. Under the programme low-cost technologies such as yellow sticky traps, pheromone traps, seed treatment, vermicomposting, Beejamrit, Jeevamrit, kitchen gardening, integrated farming systems and protected cultivation are promoted among the farmers. The program focus on awareness of programs such as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, Kisan Credit Card, Soil Health Card and other agricultural support schemes. Also, Agricultural Information Centres (AICs) have been established in adopted villages as local knowledge hubs for scientific advisories, weather information, government schemes and agricultural technologies. The program has strengthened linkages among Agricultural Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, students and farming communities through demonstrations and farmer interactions.
