

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2970
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13TH MARCH, 2018

SOIL TESTING IN TAMIL NADU

2970. SHRI R.P. MARUTHARAJAA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE **†ãöŠääÓã** एवं किसान कल्याण **½ãâããè** be pleased to state:

- whether testing of soil in respect of cultivable land is being done in the State of Tamil Nadu;
- if so, whether the testing is conducted at certain intervals;
- if so, the details thereof along with the criteria for the same; and
- the type of financial assistance provided to the State under the National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSH&F) and the type of work done in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

†ãöŠääÓã एवं किसान कल्याण **½ãâããÈ¼ã ½ãñâ Àã¼ã ½ãâããè** (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. The Government has introduced Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme to assist all State Governments, including Tamil Nadu, 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.

The criteria followed for soil sampling is in grids of 2.5 ha in irrigated areas and 10 ha grid in rainfed areas. Sample testing is to be done for 12 parameters namely pH, Electrical Conductivity (EC), Organic Carbon (OC), macronutrients [Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) & Potash (K)], secondary nutrients [Sulphur (S)] and micronutrients micro-nutrients [Zinc (Zn), Iron (Fe), Copper (Cu), Manganese (Mn) & Boron (B)].

(d): Financial assistance of Rs.300/- per sample is provided to State Governments for collection of soil samples, testing, printing and distribution of soil health cards.

The State Government of Tamil Nadu has completed first cycle (2015-17), against the target of 12.74 lakh soil samples, all samples have been collected and tested. Against target of 70.00 lakh soil health cards, all cards (100%) distributed to farmers in the State. During the first year of 2nd cycle (2017-18) as on 06.03.2018, the State Government of Tamil Nadu has achieved the target of collection of 6.37 lakh soil samples and tested 6.29 lakh samples. Against the target of 35 lakh soil health cards, 9.66 lakh cards distributed to farmers.
