

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3247**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY, 2019

**SOIL HEALTH MISSION**

3247. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the "Soil Health Mission" introduced by the Government is being implemented properly, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the number of farmers being benefited by the scheme is satisfactory and the desired objectives have been achieved by the Government, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government for its satisfactory implementation?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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

(a): 'Soil Health Card' (SHC) scheme has been launched in February 2015 to assist State Governments to evaluate fertility in all farm holdings and issue soil health cards to farmers regularly in a cycle of 2 years. Soil health cards provide information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendations on appropriate dosage on nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

(b): In the Cycle-I (2015-17), 10.74 crore Soil Health Cards and in Cycle II (2017-19), against the target of 12 crore soil health cards distribution, 7 crore Soil Health Cards have been distributed to farmers so far.

As per a study carried by National Productivity Council (February 2017) it has been reported that there is savings of 8-10% of fertilizers and 5-6% increase in crop yield, as a result of fertilizer application as per the recommendations of Soil Health Cards.

(c): The following components/interventions have been taken up for satisfactory implementation of the scheme:

- (i) Assistance for soil sample testing and distribution of soil health cards.
- (ii) Demonstration/assistance to farmers.
- (iii) Capacity building and use of ICT.
- (iv) Organization of Workshops.
- (v) Organization of farmer melas/camps.

Apart from above weekly review is taken on status of activities through video-conference with states; an application software has been developed through NIC for online generation of Soil Health Cards and Fertilizers Recommendation; December 5<sup>th</sup> is observed as World Soil Day every year where in various activities are taken up by state governments and Krishi Vigyan Kendras like distribution of soil health cards, organization of exhibitions, farmers workshops. Media campaign through video spot/audio spot on various TV channels/FM radio station, online contests on poster making, slogan writing, video spots and quiz contest on MyGov portal are also organized.

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