

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 334
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 16TH JULY, 2019

SOIL TESTING OF FARMS

*334. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes a scheme for increasing soil testing of farms in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of soil testing laboratories functioning at present in the country, State/UT-wise including Bihar; and
- (d) the further steps being taken by the Government to make appropriate arrangements for the soil testing in the country including Bihar?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 334 DUE FOR REPLY ON 16TH JULY, 2019.

(a) & (b): Government has been implementing 'Soil Health Card' (SHC) scheme since 2015 to assist State Governments in soil testing and providing soil health cards to all farm holdings in the country 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 of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility. The Samples are collected at a grid of 2.5 ha in irrigated area and 10 ha in un-irrigated area. 12 Soil Health parameters viz. primary nutrients (NPK); secondary nutrient (S); micronutrients (B, Zn, Mn, Fe, & Cu); and others (pH, EC & OC) are analyzed for comprehensiveness. During the 1st Cycle (2015-2017) of the scheme, 10.73 crore soil health cards and during the 2nd Cycle (2017-19), 10.69 crore soil health cards have been distributed by State Governments to farmers across the country.

Under Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, during current year (2019-20) soil sample collection has been taken up at individual farm holding with farmer's participation instead of sample collection at grids. This will result in acceptance of SHC by farmers. This has been taken up on pilot basis, one village per block for farm holding based sample collection & testing. Organization of larger number of demonstrations up to a maximum number of 100 demonstrations (1 ha each) for each adopted village for prescribing SHC based application of fertilizers.

(c): As per information received from states, presently 7949 soil testing laboratories are functioning in the country including Bihar. State/UT-wise number of static, mobile, mini and village level soil testing laboratories (functional) including Bihar is given in **Annexure-I**.

Contd...2/-

(d): Under the Soil Health Management (SHM) scheme, Government is providing financial assistance to States for setting up / strengthening of various types of soil testing laboratories according to their requirement.

So far 411 new static Soil Testing Labs (STLs), 100 new mobile STLs, 8752 mini STLs and 1562 village level STLs have been sanctioned under the scheme since 2014-15. This includes 6 mobile STLs and 28 village level STLs sanctioned to Bihar. Out of these sanctioned labs, 129 new static Soil Testing Labs (STLs), 86 new mobile STLs, 6498 mini STLs and 17 village level STLs are already established.

Annexure- I**State-wise Soil Testing Laboratories functioning in the country**

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Total no. of STLs				
		Static	Mobile	Mini Lab	Village level	Total
1	A&N Islands	1	0	0	0	1
2	Andhra Pradesh	47	13	1328	16	1404
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5	3	8	0	16
4	Assam	9	0	214	0	223
5	Bihar	38	9	0	0	47
6	Chhattisgarh	33	0	170	0	203
7	D&N Havelli	0	0	0	0	0
8	Goa	2	0	0	0	2
9	Gujarat	81	2	230	0	313
10	Haryana	35	2	50	47	134
11	Himanchal Pradesh	11	10	69	0	90
12	J&K	22	12	0	0	34
13	Jharkhand	16	3	1300	0	1319
14	Karnataka	98	1	6	88	193
15	Kerala	15	13	152	0	180
16	Madhya Pradesh	91	10	626	0	727
17	Maharashtra	235	20	17	0	272
18	Manipur	4	3	0	0	7
19	Meghalaya	3	3	6	0	12
20	Mizoram	3	3	0	0	6
21	Nagaland	3	0	0	0	3
22	Odisha	27	12	0	0	39
23	Puducherry	2	0	0	0	2
24	Punjab	52	3	0	0	55
25	Rajasthan	101	12	0	0	113
26	Sikkim	3	0	0	0	3
27	Tamil Nadu	31	16	0	2	49
28	Telangana	40	4	2050	0	2094
29	Tripura	3	3	100	0	106
30	Uttar Pradesh	254	0	0	0	254
31	Uttarakhand	13	0	0	1	14
32	West Bengal	26	8	0	0	34
	Total	1304	165	6326	154	7949
