

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 394

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28TH MARCH, 2023

SOIL HEALTH CARD SCHEME

*394. DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR. S:

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

- (a) whether the Soil Health Card Scheme has been implemented in the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the number of farmers who have been issued Soil Health Cards in the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (c) whether the Government has achieved the objectives for which Soil Health Card Scheme has been implemented and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the challenges faced by the Government while implementing the scheme;
- (e) whether the Government has set up adequate number of Soil Testing Laboratories across the country to facilitate farmers and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise along with the number of farmers who have availed benefits of such laboratories so far; and
- (f) whether all the Soil Testing Laboratories in the country are functional to provide services to farmers and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

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

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 394 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 28.03.2023 REGARDING SOIL HEALTH CARD SCHEME.

(a) & (b): Yes, sir, the Government has implemented the Soil Health Card Scheme in the country including Tamil Nadu since 19th February, 2015. The Soil Health Cards issued to the farmers in the State of Tamil Nadu is as under:

S. No.	Year	Number of Soil Health Cards issued to the farmers
1	2015-2017 (Cycle-I)	67.71 lakh
2	2017-2019 (Cycle-I)	70.17 lakh
3	2019-20	3.42 lakh
4	2020-21	3.57 lakh
5	2021-22	3.22 lakh
Total		148.09 lakh

(c) & (d): The Scheme is being implemented with an aim to assist the State Governments/ Union Territories to provide Soil Health Cards for all farm holdings across the country. Soil Samples is processed as standard procedures and analysed for various parameters viz, pH, electrical conductivity (EC), Organic Carbon, available N, P, K, S and micronutrients (Zn, Cu, Fe, Mn & B). Soil health card provides information to the farmers on fertility status of their soils to enable them to apply soil health card based recommended dosages of fertilizers including micro-nutrients, bio-fertilizers, manures as well as soil ameliorants so as expected to reduce the consumption of chemical fertilizers and increase use of organic sources of plant nutrients which in turn increase productivity and farmers' income besides improving soil health and its fertility. A soil health card portal is developed for samples registration, test result entry, automatic fertilizer dosages recommendations and generation of soil health cards. So far, against the target of 10.74 crore soil health cards, 10.74 crore (100%) grid based soil health cards have been issued to the farmers during 1st cycle (2015-17), whereas, during the 2nd cycle (2017-19) against the target of 12.37 crore, 12.19 crore (98.38%) grid based soil health cards have been issued to the farmers across the country. Whereas, in the year 2019-20 (Model Village

Programme), 23.71 lakh land holding based soil health cards and in the year 2020-21, 11.52 lakh land holdings based Soil Health Cards have also been issued to farmers across the country. In order to create the awareness among the farmers, since 2015, around 6.45 lakh demonstrations, 93781 farmers' trainings and 7425 farmers melas are organized/conducted under the scheme.

Now, mobile application has been revamped for easy hassle free QR code enabled soil sampling and testing. The Soil Health Card portal has also been revamped and integrated with a GIS system so that all the test results will be captured and can be seen on a map. Focus is on providing service at the doorstep to the farmers by encouraging and facilitating soil testing facilities at a local level through entrepreneurs, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Cooperatives, Schools, Farmers Produce Organizations (FPOs) etc. Data parameters for collection of soil data have been standardized to allow use of certified/validated equipment in a decentralized manner. The States are requested to link up all the existing and new soil testing labs for automatic transmission of test data to the geo-referenced platform.

(e) & (f): Under the scheme, the financial assistance is provided to the State Governments/ Union Territories for purchasing of machinery & equipment, chemicals & glassware for setting up Soil Testing Laboratories based on their requirement. 511 static soil testing laboratories (analyzing capacity @ 10000 samples per annum per laboratory), 123 mobile soil testing laboratories (analyzing capacity @ 5000 samples per annum per laboratory), 8811 mini soil testing laboratories (analyzing capacity @ 3000 samples per annum per laboratory) and 2395 village level soil testing laboratories (analyzing capacity @ 3000 samples per annum per laboratory) have been sanctioned across the country under the scheme to provide service to farmers from the year 2015. The State-wise Soil Testing Laboratories sanctioned under the scheme is **at Annexure-I**.

Annexure-I

Details of State-wise Soil Testing Laboratories sanctioned to states from the year 2014-15 to 2022-23

S. No	States	Number of				Total
		Static Soil Testing Lab	Mobile Soil Testing Lab	Mini Soil Testing Lab	Village Level Soil Testing Lab	
1	Andhra Pr.	0	9	1328	16	1353
2	Arunachal Pr.	6	-	-	-	6
3	Assam	21	2	200	35	258
4	Bihar	0	6	-	258	264
5	Chhattisgarh	23	-	111	35	169
6	Goa	1	1	-	-	2
7	Gujarat	4	2	230	114	350
8	Haryana	22	6	109	150	287
9	Himachal Pr.	1	7	69	-	77
10	Jharkhand	-	-	1300	-	1300
11	Karnataka	-	7	6	289	302
12	Kerala	-	2	152	-	154
13	Madhya Pr.	265	10	626	30	931
14	Maharashtra	41	10	1318	-	1369
15	Manipur	9	-	-	2	11
16	Meghalaya	2	-	8	-	10
17	Mizoram	5	-	-	0	5
18	Nagaland	20	3	-	74	97
19	Odisha	4	19	-	135	158
20	Puducherry	-	-	-	10	10
21	Punjab	-	-	128	104	232
22	Rajasthan	55	-	-	50	105
23	Sikkim	-	-	-	14	14
24	Tamil Nadu	8	10	-	2	20
25	Telangana	-	3	2050	711	2764
26	Tripura	4	2	100	25	131
27	Uttar Pr.	3	10	-	300	313
28	Uttarakhand	-	2	-	1	3
29	West Bengal	12	4	-	-	16
30	Union Territories	5	8	-	40	53
	Total	511	123	7735	2395	10764
31	ICAR	-	-	1076	-	1076
	Grand Total	511	123	8811	2395	11840
