

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4511
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28th MARCH, 2023

SOIL TESTING OF AGRICULTURE LAND

4511. SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:
SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:
SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR BELLANA:

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

- (a) the details of the policies formulated by the Government for soil-testing of the agricultural lands of the farmers;
- (b) whether the Government is conducting soil test through charitable/Non-Government or Governmental organisations and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the details of the policies regarding launching new Soil Testing Centres;
- (d) the number of fully functional soil testing labs across the country, State-wise;
- (e) the number of permanent and non-permanent employees working in these labs and vacancies for the same, State-wise;
- (f) the details of budgetary expenditure on soil testing labs run by the Government for the last five years;
- (g) whether all labs are adequately equipped in accordance with generally accepted international standards, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (h) the steps taken to increase the number of such labs at the village level?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (h): Government has launched the Soil Health Card scheme under National Project on Soil Health and Fertility in the year 2015 with an aim to assist the States/Union Territories to provide Soil Health Cards for all farm holdings across the country. Soil health card provides information to the farmers on fertility status of their soils to enables them to apply soil health card based recommended balanced doses of fertilizers in an integrated way in conjunctive use of chemical fertilizers, organic fertilizers and bio-fertilizers so as expected to reduce the consumption of chemical fertilizers and increase use of organic sources of plant nutrients which in turn improve the soil fertility as well as nutrient use efficiency. Interventions proposed for the Scheme includes development of modalities for soil sample collection along with standard sampling norms, quality control in the soil analysis, training of sampling staff and soil testinglab personnel, intensive use of ICT for database management for faster delivery of soil health cards in PPP mode like charitable/Non-Government and popularizing soil test based Integrated Nutrient Management through field demonstrations.

Under the Soil Health Management scheme there is provision to set up static Soil Testing Labs (STLs), Mobile Soil Testing Labs, Mini Soil Testing Labs and Village Soil Testing Labs besides strengthening of existing laboratories to enable them to undertake micro-nutrient testing. The financial assistance is provided to the states for purchasing of machinery & equipment, chemicals & glassware in Soil Testing Laboratories. No financial assistance is provided to state for hiring of man power. Therefore, the data of employees working in Soil Testing Laboratories in states are not maintained by Government of India. The state-wise details of functional soil testing laboratories sanctioned to states during 2014-15 to 2022-23 are at **Annexure-I**. Details of State-wise release of funds by the Government of India under the scheme during the last five years are at **Annexure-II**.

Establishment of Village Level Soil Testing Labs has been taken up under Soil Health Management (SHM) scheme with the objective of employment generation for rural youth and improve timelines in analysis of soil samples. Financial assistance for setting up of Village Level Soil Testing Labs can be availed by Agri-Clinics and Agri Business Centres (AC&ABC), Agri-prenures, Ex-servicemen, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), Farmer Joint Liability Groups, Farmer Cooperative Societies, PACS, Input Retail Outlets, Input Retailers and Schools / Colleges. Soil Testing Labs are equipped with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) validated instruments & equipments who met adequate standards. Government is promoting mini soil testing labs and providing financial assistance to set up in order to increase the village level soil testing labs.

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 Pradesh	0	9	1328	16	1353
2	Arunachal Pradesh	6	0	0	0	6
3	Assam	21	2	200	35	258
4	Bihar	0	6	0	258	264
5	Chhattisgarh	23	0	111	35	169
6	Goa	1	1	0	0	2
7	Gujarat	4	2	230	114	350
8	Haryana	22	6	109	150	287
9	Himachal Pradesh	1	7	69	0	77
10	J&K	5	8	0	28	41
11	Jharkhand	0	0	1300	0	1300
12	Karnataka	0	7	6	289	302
13	Kerala	0	2	152	0	154
14	Madhya Pradesh	265	10	626	30	931
15	Maharashtra	41	10	1318	0	1369
16	Manipur	9	0	0	2	11
17	Meghalaya	2	0	8	0	10
18	Mizoram	5	0	0	0	5
19	Nagaland	20	3	0	74	97
20	Odisha	4	19	0	135	158
21	Puducherry	0	0	0	10	10
22	Punjab	0	0	128	104	232
23	Rajasthan	55	0	0	50	105
24	Sikkim	0	0	0	14	14
25	Tamil Nadu	8	10	0	2	20
26	Telangana	0	3	2050	711	2764
27	Tripura	4	2	100	25	131
28	Uttar Pradesh	3	10	0	300	313
29	Uttarakhand	0	2	0	1	3
30	West Bengal	12	4	0	0	16
31	A & N	0	0	0	0	0
32	Ladakh	0	0	0	12	12
	Total	511	123	7735	2395	10764
33	ICAR	0	0	1076	0	1076
	Grand Total	511	123	8811	2395	11840

Annexure-II

Details of State-wise release of funds by the Government of India under the Soil Health Card scheme and Soil Health Management scheme

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Funds released		
		Soil Health Card scheme	Soil Health Management scheme	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	65.56	46.90	112.46
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3.09	6.04	9.13
3	Assam	27.91	11.80	39.71
4	Bihar	31.96	11.17	43.13
5	Chhattisgarh	29.00	16.16	45.16
6	Goa	0.39	2.61	3.00
7	Gujarat	48.33	7.90	56.22
8	Haryana	27.67	9.44	37.11
9	Himachal Pradesh	9.49	8.43	17.92
10	Jammu & Kashmir	8.82	12.81	21.63
11	Jharkhand	8.94	7.47	16.41
12	Karnataka	58.83	33.19	92.03
13	Kerala	7.15	1.41	8.56
14	Madhya Pradesh	80.08	45.05	125.12
15	Maharashtra	97.67	30.44	128.11
16	Manipur	2.54	4.56	7.10
17	Meghalaya	3.05	3.02	6.06
18	Mizoram	1.42	2.22	3.65
19	Nagaland	3.60	27.40	31.00
20	Odisha	29.65	12.63	42.29
21	Punjab	20.80	6.38	27.17
22	Rajasthan	59.99	13.33	73.32
23	Sikkim	2.12	9.72	11.84
24	Tamil Nadu	41.95	19.38	61.33
25	Telangana	33.05	44.03	77.08
26	Tripura	3.81	5.90	9.71
27	Uttar Pradesh	143.82	24.40	168.22
28	Uttarakhand	14.96	2.35	17.31
29	West Bengal	32.49	8.53	41.01
30	Pondicherry	0.47	0.88	1.34
31	A&N Island	0.19	0.24	0.43
32	DD & DN Haveli	0.10	0.20	0.31
33	Ladakh	0.15	0.64	0.78
	Total	899.03	436.63	1335.66
