

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2466
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3RD DECEMBER, 2019

PROGRAMME FOR IMPROVING SOIL HEALTH

2466. SHRI VINOD L. CHAVDA:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce any programme to improve soil health to increase production;
- (b) if so, the details of monitoring of these programmes in the country and in Delhi and the National Capital Region; and
- (c) whether the Government has issued any guidelines regarding soil health to farmers from time to time?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): Government has been implementing Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme since 2015 to provide soil test based crop-specific nutrient recommendations to all the farmers in the country every 2 years. The soil samples are collected from a grid size of 2.5 ha in irrigated and 10 ha in unirrigated area. Each sample is tested for 12 parameters. Soil Health Card 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 productivity.

During the current financial year (2019-20) a pilot project 'Development of Model Villages' has been taken up. The programme promotes farm holding based soil sample collection and testing with farmers' participation. One village in each block has been selected by the States for implementation of the pilot project.

(b): The scheme is being monitored through weekly video conferencing with all states including Delhi and National Capital Region.

However, Government of Delhi has not availed any financial assistance from Central Government under the Soil Health Card Scheme. The progress of SHC scheme has also been captured on SHC portal <https://soilhealth.dac.gov.in/> starting from soil sample collection, testing, and card distribution. Regular monitoring is also ensured through review meetings, field visits etc.

(c): The operational guidelines have been issued to all State Government and also available at the Departmental & SHC portals.

<http://agricoop.nic.in/>

<https://soilhealth.dac.gov.in/>