

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 165**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH, 2020

**IMPROVEMENT OF SOIL HEALTH**

\*165. SHRI NAND KUMAR SINGH CHAUHAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to start a programme to improve soil health for increasing the production capacity of the farms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any guidelines have been issued to the farmers from time to time regarding soil health; and
- (d) whether proper training has been imparted to the farmers regarding appropriate use of fertilizers for improving the quality of soil and if so, the details thereof?

**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. 165 DUE FOR REPLY ON 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH, 2020.**

(a) & (b): Government has been implementing Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme since 2015 to provide soil health cards to all farmers across the country once in a cycle of 2 years. 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 fertility. In cycle-1(2015-17), 10.74 crore and in cycle-2 (2017-19), 11.74 crore SHCs were distributed to the farmers. During 2019-20, a pilot project 'Development of Model Villages' has been initiated in 6954 villages( one village/ revenue block) where individual farm holding based sample collection with farmer's participation is ensured along with awareness campaign and demonstration of application of fertilizers as per prescription of SHC.

(c): Government is encouraging soil test based judicious application of inorganic and organic fertilizers to sustain good soil health for higher productivity. In this regard advisories are issued to farmers from time to time.

(d): Under Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, financial assistance is provided to State governments as follows:

- Training of farmers @ Rs. 24,000/- per training for 2 days with 30 or more participants. So far, 1946 farmer trainings have been sanctioned to States.
- Organizing field demonstration @ Rs. 2,500/- per ha demonstration. So far, 5.50 lakh demonstrations have been sanctioned to States.
- Organizing farmer melas / campaigns @ Rs. 1.00 lakh per farmer mela / campaign. So far, 7425 farmer melas / campaigns have been sanctioned to States.

The SHC is also an activity of Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan (KKA) implemented in 112 Aspirational districts.

In addition Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also impart training, organizes front line demonstrations to educate farmers on this aspect.