

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 214
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10TH DECEMBER, 2024

SOIL HEALTH CARD PROGRAMME

*214. SHRI THARANIVENTHAN M S:

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

- (a) the details of the Soil Health Card Programme/scheme;
- (b) the details of funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized under this programme in Tamil Nadu during the last three years and the current Year;
- (c) the number of farmers enrolled under this programme in Tamil Nadu during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) the details of targets set and achievements made so far under this programme across the country along with its objectives and aims;
- (e) whether the Government has made some amendments/revamped this scheme; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

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

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PART (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 214 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2024 REGARDING SOIL HEALTH CARD PROGRAMME.

(a): Soil Health & Fertility Scheme has been implemented by the Government since 2015, wherein Soil Health Cards (SHCs) are issued to farmers to improve the health of the soil. Soil Health Cards encourage judicious use of fertilizer, secondary and micronutrients in along with organic manures & bio-fertilizers. Soil samples are processed through standard procedures and analyzed for 12 parameters viz, pH, electrical conductivity, Organic Carbon, available Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Sulphur, and micro-nutrients (Zinc, Coper, Iron, Manganese & Boron). SHCs provide information on:

- Nutrient status of soil
- Recommendations on appropriate dosage & type of fertilizers for improving soil health and its fertility.

(b) & (c): The details of funds sanctioned, allocated, utilized and farmers enrolled under this programme in Tamil Nadu during the last three years and the current year are as below:

Year	Allocation (Rs. in lakh)	Fund Sanctioned/ Released (Rs. in lakh)	Fund Utilized (Rs. in lakh)	Number of farmers enrolled (as per SHC Portal)
2021-22	294.00	Fund could not be released due to pending compliance of Department of Expenditure guidelines by the State Government		
2022-23	999.49	499.74	499.74	134050
2023-24	1602.00	1602.00	1586.67	250386
2024-25	927.00	352.00	234.67	338600
Total	3822.49	2453.74	2321.08	723036

(d): The Soil Health & Fertility Scheme was introduced to issue Soil Health Cards to all farmers in the country with the aims and objectives as detailed:

- To issue soil health cards to all farmers of the country so as to provide a basis to address nutrient deficiencies in fertilization practices by issuing soil test based recommendations on Soil Health Cards.

- To promote Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micronutrients in conjunction with organic manures & bio-fertilizers for improving soil health and its fertility.
- To provide advisory/ guidelines to farmers through Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Krishi Sakhis, etc.
- To generate village Soil fertility maps, using Soil Health Card data.

Since 2014-15, 24.60 Crore Soil Health Cards have been generated across the country. Under the scheme, 1068 Static Soil Testing Laboratories, 163 Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories, 6376 Mini Soil Testing Laboratories and 665 Village Level Soil Testing Laboratories have been established across the country. To educate farmers, 6.8 lakh demonstrations, 93781 farmer's training programmes and 7425 farmer's mela have been organized across the country till date.

(e) & (f): The details of amendments/ revamping of the aforementioned scheme are as follows :

i. In order to make the scheme farmer-friendly, the Soil Health Card portal has been revamped with the following features:

- Introduction of a mobile application for soil sample collection during 2023-24
- Introduced dashboards at National, State and District levels
- Real time information on soil sample collection & its testing and generation of Soil Health Card
- Farmers can download Soil Health Cards from the portal by entering their registered mobile number.
- Introduction of fertilizer management, nutrient dashboard, heat maps of nutrients on the portal to guide the policymakers
- Capturing of geo-coordinates of farmers' field, from where samples are collected, through mobile application
- Introduction of QR code enabled sample collection
- Onboarding of all Soil Testing Labs on the Soil Health Card Portal.

ii. Further, the scheme has been modified with the following features:

- Citizen Charter has been introduced to deliver the Soil Health Card.

Establishment of Soil Testing Labs has been decentralized – Entrepreneurs, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACs), Farm Producer Organizations (FPOs), etc. can run the Soil Testing Labs.

iii. The School Soil Health Program has been rolled out to involve school students of 1020 schools (Kendriya Vidyalayas - 210, Eklavya Model Residential Schools - 401, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas - 299, and State Government Schools- 110) across 33 States/UTs. Teachers and students have been trained for sample collection, testing and providing advisories to the farmers on the recommendations of Soil Health Card. Soil testing and advisory is compulsorily included in the field internship of Undergraduate, Post-graduate and Diploma students of Agricultural University and Rural Agricultural Work Experience programme (RAWWE) Internship.
