

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2657
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 05th AUGUST, 2025

SOIL HEALTH CARDS

2657. SHRI THARANIVENTHAN M S:

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

- (a) the total number of Soil Health Cards (SHCs) issued to farmers in Tamil Nadu under the Soil Health Card Programme till date;
- (b) the details of measures taken to ensure timely soil testing and distribution of SHCs, especially to small and marginal farmers;
- (c) the steps taken to ensure that the recommendations provided in the Soil Health Cards are effectively communicated and adopted by farmers in Tamil Nadu;
- (d) whether any region-specific soil health challenges have been identified in Tamil Nadu, and the manner in which the programme addresses them; and
- (e) the steps being taken to upgrade soil testing laboratories and use technology to improve the accuracy and coverage of the Soil Health Card Programme ?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): Since, inception of the scheme in 2015, 152.51 lakh Soil Health Cards (SHCs) have been issued to farmers in Tamil Nadu under the Soil Health & Fertility Scheme (as on 30.06.2025).

(b) to (d): State Government has informed that SHCs are distributed to farmers including small and marginal farmers as per citizen charter to ensure timely delivery. The advisories are issued to farmers through Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) officials, Krishi Sakhis, & Mobile Soil Testing Laboratory (MSTL) Van Campaigns. In every village, the ATMA officials conduct training under various scheme & advisories about SHC is kept mandatory. The MSTL van visits villages to collect soil samples undertake sample testing, provide soil health card & issue advisories to farmers instantly. Apart from this, in every block, Village Level Agricultural Development Group issues SHC advisories to farmers in Pre Kharif & Pre Rabi season. No major region-specific soil health challenges are faced in implementation of the scheme. However, in some region, pockets of problematic soils had been identified & advisories were given for reclamation of problem soils.

(e): To ensure accuracy in soil testing, the Government of Tamil Nadu has undergone for National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) Recognition process. As a result, 36 Static labs have received NABL Recognition certificate. Government has allowed upgradation of the existing soil testing infrastructure with Atomic Absorption Spectrometer (AAS)/ Inductively Coupled Plasma Spectrophotometer (ICP) under the scheme. Soil Lab registry has been created online on SHC Portal as digital integration. Test results are uploaded on SHC Portal to generate Soil Health card digitally.