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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 307
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22nd JULY, 2025

SOIL HEALTH AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

307. SHRI SRIBHARAT MATHUKUMILLI:

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any recent studies on the status of soil health inthe country, including specific assessments for agro-ecological zones in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of key findings regarding soil fertility trends, organic carbon depletion, micronutrient deficiencies and their impact on agricultural output in major crops;

(c) whether the decline in soil health has affected input efficiency, long-term yield sustainability or resilience to climate variability; and

(d) the steps being taken to enhance the effectiveness of the Soil Health Card scheme, promote region-specific soil restoration practices and integrate soil health goals within PM-KISAN, natural farming, and agri-extension frameworks?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): Government has conducted two studies on the status of Soil Health & Fertility Scheme in the country including agro-ecological zones in Andhra Pradesh. The key findings of these studies are as under:

- National Productivity Council (NPC), New Delhi carried out a study 'Soil Testing Infrastructure for Faster Delivery of Soil Health Card in India' in 2017 in 76 districts of 19 States covering 170 soil testing labs and 1700 farmers. As a result of application of fertilizer and micro-nutrients as per the recommendations on the Soil Health Cards

(SHCs), it was reported that there has been a decrease of use of chemical fertilizer application in the range of 8-10%. Overall 5-6% increase in the yield of crops was reported due to application of fertilizer and micro nutrients as per recommendations in SHC.

- An impact study of Soil Health & Fertility Scheme (November 2017) was conducted by National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. As per report, about 62.8% of the farmers use fertilizers according to the recommendations on the SHC (out of 3184 farmers in 199 villages). The costs reduced per acre by 4 to 10 % due to low fertilizer use. Crop yields increased for majority of the crops, although moderately. Two-thirds of the sample farmers indicated that SHC is beneficial which an encouraging fact. Overall, paddy farmers reduced use of urea by 9%, Diammonium Phosphate (DAP)/Single Super Phosphate by 7%, but increased use of Potassium by 20%. There was substantial decline in fertilizer use especially urea and DAP in paddy and cotton resulted in decreased cost of cultivation per unit area.

(d): States are linking SHCs to other beneficiary linked schemes also like, National Mission of Edible Oil Oilseeds and National Mission on Natural Farming, to give farmers nutrient status baseline data of soil. Crop-wise fertilizer recommendations is given under SHC to promote region specific soil nutrient restoration. Agri-extension worker like Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Krishi Vigyan Kendras are also involved in knowledge dissemination to farmers about SHC recommendations.

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