

Regarding need to establish soil testing laboratories at Panchayat level in Odisha to give impetus to Soil Health Card Scheme in the State- laid

SHRI BALABHADRA MAJHI (NABARANGPUR): The Soil Health Card Scheme is a very noble initiative of the Government. However, it has been observed that in Odisha, hardly 30% of soil samples have been tested since the scheme was launched in 2015. During the last 10 years, ideally, all fields should have been tested at least three times. The main reason for this shortfall is the inadequate number of soil-testing laboratories. It is not possible to achieve the objectives of the scheme unless soil testing laboratories are established at the Panchayat level. I urge the Government to take necessary steps to establish these laboratories at the earliest.