

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:33
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2014
SOIL HEALTH CARDS
Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of `Soil Health Cards` issued to the farmers and the details of information contained therein;
- (b) the number of `Soil Health Cards` issued to the farmers by States during the last two years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to launch a comprehensive plan to provide `Soil Health Cards` to all the farmers across the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which such cards are likely to be provided to all the farmers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(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. 33 DUE FOR REPLY ON 08TH JULY, 2014.

(a): Soil Health Cards provide farmers with recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for cultivation of various crops depending upon the physical, chemical and biological health of their soils. Information on soil texture, density, porosity, acidity/salinity, organic content, nutrient (primary, secondary and micro) content etc. is provided in the soil Health Cards.

(b): The State/Union Territory-wise number of Soil Health Cards issued to the farmers during 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 is given at Annexure.

(c) & (d): Soil Health needs to be assessed at regular intervals so as to ensure that farmers apply the required amount of nutrients to their crops. Accordingly, distribution of Soil Health Cards is a continuous & dynamic exercise carried out by the State Governments. Central Government provides assistance to State Governments for setting up Soil Testing Laboratories for issuing Soil Health Cards to farmers. State Governments have adopted innovative practices like involvement of agricultural students, NGOs and private sector in soil testing, determining average soil health of villages, etc. to issue Soil Health Cards.