

**Deterioration in soil health**

2224. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether deteriorating soil health is a cause of concern;
- (b) if so, whether Government proposes to initiate a scheme to provide to every farmer a soil health card in a Mission mode; and
- (c) whether Government has prepared a blue print in this regard to ensure sufficient soil testing labs in all States, if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Soil Health Card' has been approved for implementation in Twelfth Plan to provide farmers with information on soil analysis and recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for cultivation of various crops. Distribution of Soil Health Cards is a continuous and dynamic exercise, therefore, it is targeted to issue soil health card for all farm holdings in the country every three years.

(c) To ensure sufficient soil testing laboratories in all States, financial assistance is provided for setting up of soil testing laboratories under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture. So far 139 new soil testing laboratories have been sanctioned under the Scheme.

The States can also seek financial assistance under State Plan Scheme—Rashtriya Kisan Vikas Yojana for setting up soil testing laboratories.

**Action plan to increase production of pulses and oilseeds**

2225. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has chalked out any action plan to increase production of pulses and oilseeds in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the steps taken by Government to encourage farmers to increase cultivation of pulses and oilseeds in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) To increase production of pulses, Government of India is implementing National Food Security Mission (NFSM) from 2007-08 onwards. During Eleventh Plan period, the target was to increase pulses production by 2.00 million tonnes and achievement was 2.89 million tonnes. During 2013-14, there was a record pulses production of 19.27 million tonnes. The Mission has been continued in Twelfth Plan with target of increasing pulses production by 4 million tonnes by the end of 2016-17. NFSM - Pulses are being implemented in 615 districts in 27 States during 2014-15.

For oilseeds, Government of India implemented Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) from 2004-05 to 2013-14. During 2013-14, there was a record oilseeds production of 32.89 million tonnes. From 2014-15 onwards, National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) is under implementation to achieve oilseeds production of 35.51 million tonnes by the end of Twelfth Plan. The Mission is being implemented in 23 States during 2014-15.

(b) In order to encourage farmers to take up cultivation of pulses and oilseeds, financial support is provided on various need based interventions. Under NFSM, support is provided on interventions like block demonstrations, distribution of quality seeds, integrated nutrient management, integrated pest management, sprinkler sets and pipes, farm machinery and implements, etc.

Under NMOOP, financial support is provided on interventions like production and distribution of foundation, certified seeds of oilseed crops, supply of minikits, block demonstrations, farmers field school, supply of improved farm machinery and implements, sprinkler sets and pipes, bio-agents and bio-fertilizers etc.

Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Punjab are implementing both NFSM and NMOOP during 2014-15.

#### **Crop diversification scheme**

†2226. SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crop diversification scheme is being run by Central Government in the States having green revolution;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.