

The Government has introduced Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme with an aim to provide soil health cards to all farmers across the country once in a cycle of 2 years. Soil health cards provide farmers with recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for cultivation of various crops along with soil amendments.

Under National Food Security Mission programme, assistance is given for component such as nutrient management and soil ameliorants under components of rice/wheat and pulses for increasing soil fertility and enhancing crop yield.

Farmers' inability to buy seeds/fertilizers due to demonetization

†2733. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers couldn't purchase seeds and fertilizers timely and the experts are expressing apprehensions about low production of crops on account of it;

(b) whether farmers couldn't purchase seeds and fertilizers on time due to demonetization that has affected their crops; and

(c) whether it is a fact that when the farmers were able to purchase seeds from Government seed centres through old currency notes, seeds were not available at those centres and due to that farmers couldn't purchase seeds, the factual position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Demonetization has not affected the Rabi sowing as the total area sown under five major crop categories till 2nd December, 2016 was 415.53 lakh hectares, 8.54% higher than the 382.84 lakh hectares in the same period last year. Wheat has been sown on 173.93 lakh hectares compared to 149.86 lakh hectares in the same period last year. The area covered under pulses is 112.95 lakh hectares compared to 99.83 lakh hectares in the same period last year. The area covered under oil seeds is 70.70 lakh hectares compared to 64.21 lakh hectares in the same period last year.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.