

STLs and MSTLs in Karnataka

4021. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of the Soil Health Card Scheme;
- (b) whether it is a fact that 400 Soil Testing Laboratories (STLs) and also Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories (MSTLs) have been sanctioned to various States in the country;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that only 6 STLs and no MSTLs has been sanctioned to Karnataka;
- (d) whether 65 per cent STLs have been sanctioned for Madhya Pradesh; and
- (e) if so, the justification behind the same and reasons for sanctioning less number of STLs and nil MSTL for Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The Government has introduced Soil Health Card Scheme with an aim to assist all State Governments to evaluate fertility in all farm holding across the country and issue soil health cards to farmers regularly in a cycle of 2 years. Soil health cards provide information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

(b) to (d) Under Soil Health Management (SHM) scheme 491 soil testing labs (411 static+80 mobile) have been sanctioned to various States in the country during 2014-15 to 2016-17. Out of which 9 soil testing labs (8 static+1 mobile) have been sanctioned to Karnataka and 265 static soil testing labs sanctioned to Madhya Pradesh. The SHM scheme is implemented through State Governments. The funding pattern is 90:10 in hilly regions, 60:40 between Centre and State in case of all States.

(e) Soil Testing Laboratories are sanctioned on the basis of Annual Action Plan submitted by the State Governments for approval of Executive Committee under SHM scheme. In the last 3 years, the Annual Action Plan of Karnataka proposed to set up 6 static labs, 2 mini labs and 2 referral labs. Accordingly, the action plans were approved for implementation.