Vacant posts of agricultural scientists in ICAR

†3817. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

[†]Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- the number of posts sanctioned for agriculture scientists in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the number of filled and vacant posts respectively vis-a-vis the posts sanctioned in this regard; and
- (b) whether the agricultural research works are getting adversely affected on account of posts remaining vacant for a long time, if so, the action plan of the Government to fill the vacant posts soon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) Details of posts of Agricultural Scientists in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) are as under:

Sanctioned Strength	In position	Vacant
6543	5178	1365

(b) No, Sir. Arising of vacancy and filling up is a continuous process. The ICAR make all out efforts for filling up of vacant posts, as and when arise.

Implementation of Soil Health Card Scheme

3818. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- whether Soil Health Card under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), aims at promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of chemical fertilisers including secondary and micro-nutrients in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilisers;
- (b) if so, the number of farmers who have shifted to sustainable agriculture practices; and
- whether the Soil Health Cards have been issued to the farmers in remote areas such as North Eastern States, if so, the number of farmers who have availed the same?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, during the first 2 year Cycle (2015-17), 10.73 crore farmers and in the second 2 year Cycle (2017-19), 10.70 crore farmers availed soil health cards issued by State Governments for promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM).