

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3475  
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2003  
ORGANIC FARMS  
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government have started a scheme whereby farms will be given certification as `Organic Farms` on fulfilling certain criterion;
- (b) if so, the details of the criteria set by the Government;
- (c) the likely advantages of such a certification;
- (d) the organization responsible for the said certification;
- (e) whether the Government have held discussions with FAO to finalise the said criteria and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether any financial assistance will be given for organic farming; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): The Ministry of Agriculture has formulated a National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) for implementation during Xth Plan which envisages formulation of national standards, creation of accreditation and certification system for certification of organic farms and promoting organic farming in the country.

The Government have also developed a National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) laying the standards for export purposes, which is monitored through Steering committee constituted under the Ministry of Commerce. It has notified 7 Certification agencies, whose main function is to certify organic farms based on the National Standards.

(c) & (d): The Certification ensures that the product has been grown organically and get higher price in the market. Presently there are following 7 inspection-cum-certification agencies accredited by NPOP, Ministry of Commerce:

- i) Institute of Marketology, Bangalore
- ii) SKAL International, Bangalore
- iii) ECOCERT International, Aurangabad
- iv) LACONGM BH, Germany
- v) SGS India Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon
- vi) Association for Promotion of Organic Farming, Bangalore
- vii) Indian organic certification agency, (INDOCERT), Cochin.

(e): No, Sir.

(f) & (g): The Scheme of NPOF envisages to provide financial support for setting up of production units of biofertilizers, hatcheries for vermicompost and fruits and vegetable compost, besides training.