

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5402
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005
ORGANIC FARMING
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the foodgrains exported by the Government have been returned due to the presence of pesticides in the foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to promote concentrated organic farming in view of the adverse effect of chemical fertilizers on human beings and environment;
- (d) whether the production area of concentrated organic farming is increasing in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

- (a)&(b): No, Sir. Government releases foodgrains of FAQ (Fair, Average, Quality) only for export purposes from the Central Pool.
- (c): To promote organic farming in the country, Government has recently approved a Central Sector Plan Scheme, National Project on Organic Farming with an outlay of Rs.57.05 crores for production, promotion, certification and market development of organic farming during 10th Plan period with the following main components:
 - (i) Putting in place a system of certification of organic produce.
 - (ii) Capacity building through service providers.
 - (iii) Financial support for commercial production units for production of organic inputs like fruits and vegetable waste compost, bio-fertilizer production and hatcheries for vermiculture.
 - (iv) Training, field demonstration, promotion and market development.Besides, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has taken many initiatives for enhancing export of organic produce.
- (d)&(e): At present the estimated area under organic farming in India is about 80,000 hectares, with the growing importance in organic farming, its area is continuously increasing.