

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3734  
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2004  
CELL FOR ORGANIC FARMING  
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

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

- (a) Whether the Government is considering to form a separate cell to promote organic farming;
- (b) If so, the names of farm and horticultural products likely to be promoted by this cell/ departments;
- (c) Whether the Government is aware that organic cotton, sesame etc. are being grown under the name of agrocell in some parts of the country ;
- (d) If so, whether the Government is considering to set up an inspection agency to check the organic farm products;
- (e) If so, the details thereof; and
- (f) The total quantum of organic farm products exported during 2003-04 alongwith the foreign exchange earned thereform?

**Answer**

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

- (a) : An Organic Farming Cell in the DAC has been set up to implement a new scheme namely, `National Project on Organic Farming` for production, promotion, market development and Certification of organic products.
- (b) : A number of horticultural products like fresh and processed vegetables and fruits and also tea, coffee, spices, cotton, oilseeds and pulses, etc. will be promoted under the Project.
- (c) : No such specific information has come to the notice of the Government.
- (d) & (e): There is a provision under National Project on Organic Farming to appoint Certification and Inspection agencies to check the organic farm products for domestic and export markets. Presently, APEDA being an Accreditation Agency, has appointed six certification and inspection agencies for certification of organic products for export purpose.
- (f): The total quantum of organic products exported during 2003-04 is 6792 MT approximately which includes fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, walnuts, honey, tea, coffee, spices, groundnuts and cotton yarn and the total value of exports of organic products is Rs.71 crores approximately in the foreign exchange.