

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2708
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2006
PROMOTION OF ORGANIC FARMING
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether foodgrains produced through organic farming have an edge over foodgrains produced with the help of chemical fertilizers and pesticides ;
- (b) If so, the total area under organic farming at present in the country and the extent of its increase or decrease during the last three years ;
- (c) Whether to promote organic farming in the country the Government has increased the allocation for this purpose ;
- (d) If so, the details thereof; and
- (e) The other initiative taken by the Government and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for the encouragement of organic farming in the country?

Answer

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

- (a) : Foodgrains produced through organic farming is considered as healthy food and commands higher prices in market.
- (b) : The total certified area under organic farming at present in the country is 1,73,682.5 ha while the same in 2003 & 2004 were 37,000 ha and 76,000 ha respectively.
- (c) & (d) : At present the `National Project on Organic Farming` is being implemented within the original allocation of Rs.57.05 crore during Xth Plan period.
- (e) : The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce & Industry is implementing National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) which includes :-
 - (i) Farming the National Standards for Organic Production and Certificate Scheme
 - (ii) Laying down procedures for export of certified organic products
 - (iii) Accreditation of certifying agencies
 - (iv) Updation of NPOP