

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4422
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ORGANIC FARM
Nambadan Shri Lonappan;Radhakrishnan Shri Varkala

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any step to establish a National Institute of Organic Farm (NIOF);
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the roles and objectives of NIOF;
- (c) whether the Government has got any proposal/offer from Government of Kerala to make available adequate land in Kerala for the NIOF; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and alongwith the response of the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) and (b) In order to promote organic farming in the country, the Government has launched a new Scheme 'National Project on Organic Farming during 10th Five Year Plan as pilot project. Under this project, the National Bio-fertilizer Development Centre (NBDC), Ghaziabad and its six Regional Centres (RBDCs) at Hissar, Jabalpur, Nagpur, Bhubaneswar, Bangalore and Imphal have been renamed as National Centre of organic Farming (NCOF) and Regional Centres of Organic Farming (RCOFs). The main objectives of NCOF are:

- (i) To facilitate, encourage and promote development of Organic Agriculture in the country.
- (ii) To prepare inventory or organic resources available for recycling in agriculture in different agro-climate regions.
- (iii) To encourage production of organic sources of nutrients like Bio-fertilizers, organic manures, compost etc. and bio-pesticides, bio-control agents etc. as certified inputs for organic farming.
- (iv) To act as nodal agency for formulation of standards and mechanism of accreditation, inspection, regulation, quality control and monitoring.
- (v) To initiate and encourage research for promotion of organic agriculture practices and the dissemination of know-how through extension.

(c) and (d) The Government of Kerala offered to make available 200 hectares of land available with the Kerala Agricultural University at Thiruvizhamkundu in Palakkad District for setting up of NIOF. However, it has been decided that NBDC Ghaziabad and its six Regional Centres will be converted into NCOF and RCOFs. Therefore, it has not been possible to consider the request of Government of Kerala for setting up of NIOF in Kerala State.