

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5332
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2008
ORGANIC FARMING
Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal to APEDA for accreditation of the State seed certification agency for organic farming;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action Government proposes to take in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

- (a): Gujarat State Seed Certification Agency (GSSCA) had shown interest in 2006 to diversify its activities into certification of organic products. As GSSCA did not qualify for becoming a certification body, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has taken initiative to train three officials of GSSCA for two years in setting up a certification programme for organic products.
- (b): Five trainings were organized in India and one abroad (Italy and Germany) between May 2006 and September 2007. The trainings focused on the requirements for setting up the organic certification programme as per ISO-65. After the trainings, the three trained officials are presently working in establishing the certification programme for GSSCA.
- (c): On fulfilling the requirements under National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), GSSCA can apply for accreditation for certifying organic products for exports.