

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1408
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2010
ORGANIC FOOD PRODUCTS
Dutt Smt. Priya Sunil

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has prescribed any guidelines for the standardisation, certification and testing of organic food being sold in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken to ensure that organic food products available in the country are safe and genuine?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI)

(a) to (c) As per the information made available by the National Centre of Organic Farming under the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation), an organic food production and process certification system known as National Programme on Organic Production has been notified under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation), 1992 by the Ministry of Commerce. This programme has been effective since the year 2000 and 18 certification agencies are authorised for granting certification thereunder. For domestic market the said programme has recently been notified as the Organic Agricultural Produce Grading and Marketing Rules, 2009 under the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marketing) Act, 1937. Government has been authorising independent agencies for inspection and certification of organic food production and organic food processing under the said two provisions.