

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:742
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010
AGMARK CERTIFICATION FOR HORTICULTURE PRODUCTS
Pal Shri Jagdambika

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the name of the agency that gives AGMARK certification to horticulture products;
- (b) the norms for selection of horticulture products for the AGMARK certification;
- (c) the details of horticulture products certified so far as AGMARK;
- (d) whether the certification of any horticulture product covers all the varieties of that product irrespective of regional variants; and
- (e) if so, whether the Government proposes to involve the State Government agencies in the certification process?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

- (a): AGMARK Certification to horticulture products is given by the Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI) in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, approved State Grading laboratories, approved commercial laboratories and authorized packers under the provisions of Agriculture Produce (Grading & Marking) Act, 1937.
- (b): Horticultural commodities are selected on the basis of demand from trade, on the basis of commercial utilization and consumer interest in domestic as well as international market.
- (c): DMI has notified grade standards for 43 fruits and vegetables, 23 spices and 07 other horticulture commodities. The details are in Annexure-A. All these commodities can be certified under Agmark. Certification is voluntary. 23 horticulture commodities are being certified under Agmark for domestic market and 08 for exports. The details are in Annexure-B.
- (d): Yes, Madam.
- (e): Rule 8 of the General Grading and Marking Rules, 1988 provides for approval of State Grading Laboratories (SGLs) to cater to the certification of agricultural commodities including horticulture commodities. One hundred and eleven SGLs have been approved in 19 States for this purpose. The State-wise number of SGLs is given in Annexure-C'.