

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:867  
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010  
DEMAND OF ORGANIC FOOD ARTICLES  
Dubey Shri Nishikant

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the demand for organic food articles in the country is on the rise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce quality control assurance system for food products under organic farming and provisions for incentives to cultivators of organic food items; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**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)&(b): The demand for organic food articles is on the rise in major towns and cities of the country due to demand by consumers for chemical residue free food grown by nature friendly methods without the use of synthetic inputs.

(c)&(d): The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) notified in 2004 a quality control assurance system through accreditation of certification bodies for export of certified organic products.

A similar regulatory mechanism has been notified under Agricultural Produce (Grading & Marking) Act, 1937 on 18.7.2009 for certification of organic agricultural produce.

Incentives to cultivators of organic food products are provided under the "National Horticulture Mission" (NHM) @ Rs.10,000/- per ha. for maximum area of 4 ha. per beneficiary, setting up of vermi compost units @ 50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs.30,000/- per beneficiary and organic farming certification @ Rs.5.00 lakh for a group of farmers covering an area of 50 ha.