

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6291

ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010

PROMOTION OF ORGANIC FOOD ITEMS

Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman;Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to promote organic food items in view of the growing demand in the global market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the present status of existing demand, supply, consumption and production of organic food items in the country; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand and to increase the production of organic food items?

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) and (d): The Government is already promoting organic food production under following schemes:

(i) National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) is under implementation since October, 2004 for production, promotion & market development of organic farming in the country.

(ii) Under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) promotion of organic farming has been included as one of the components.

(iii) Under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) financial assistance for organic farming is also available to the States.

(iv) Agricultural & Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has taken up various promotional activities for export of organic product such as development and implementation of organic standards for production and certification; capacity building of certification bodies; development of traceability system for the entire process of certification to ensure quality from farm to table; and promotion of 'India Organic' logo.

(c): As per the information available production of organic food/ fibre and other organic commodities was 9.50 lakh metric tonne during 2008-09.