

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:275
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2011
ORGANIC FARMING
Ananth Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the growth of organic farming in the country is hampered due to several constraints including lack of awareness, shortage of biomass, inadequate supporting infrastructure and marketing problems;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote organic farming in the country and provide assistance to farmers in order to maintain the soil fertility; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated and utilised in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 275 DUE FOR REPLY ON 15TH MARCH, 2011.

(a) & (b): Organic farming has grown steadily with commencement of National Project on Organic Farming in 2004-05. Area under organic farming which was 42000 hectares in 2004-05 has increased to 1.08 million hectares in 2009-10. Export of organic products has also grown steadily over the years. Value of exports which was Rs. 301 crores in 2006-07 has increased to 525.5 crores in 2009-10.

(c) & (d): Government of India launched National Project on organic Farming in 2004-05. The project, inter alia, provides financial assistance for setting up commercial organic inputs production units for nutrient mobilisation and plant protection through capital investment subsidy for fruit & vegetables waste/agro-waste compost production units, bio-fertilizer, bio pesticide production units, development and implementation of quality control regime and technical support for organic and biological inputs, human resource development through trainings, capacity building for biological soil health assessment and organic nutrient resource mapping and capacity building for low cost alternative certification.

Organic Farming is also being promoted under other flagship schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana, National Horticulture Mission and Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Financial assistance is provided under these schemes for establishment of organic input production, adoption of organic farming, certification, awareness creation and publicity etc.

Details of funds allocated and released for promotion of organic farming during last three years are enclosed at Annexure-I, II & III.