

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3316
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009
NATIONAL PROJECT ON ORGANIC FARMING
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched a National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) in the country;
- (b) if so, the aims and objective of the scheme;
- (c) the details of the Central assistance provided to NPOF during the years 2008- 09 and 2009-10 to the States and the farmers, State-wise;
- (d) the number of farmers benefited under the said scheme during the said period; and
- (e) the extent to which the said project is likely to reduce the increasing use of chemical fertilisers in the country?

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): Yes, Madam.
- (b): National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) was launched in October, 2004 with the following objectives:-
 - (i) Capacity building through service provides.
 - (ii) Financial support to production units engaged in production of bio-fertilisers, compost and vermicompost units etc.
 - (iii) Human Resources Development through trainings on certification and inspection, production technology etc.
 - (iv) Field demonstrations on organic farming.
 - (v) Market development for organic produce.
- (c): The State-wise details of Central assistance provided under NPOF during the years 2008-09 and 2009-10 are given at Annexure-I.
- (d): Component wise number of farmers benefited under the scheme is given at Annexure-II.
- (e): Upto March, 2009, an area of 1,77,308 hectares has been brought under organic management under NPOF.