

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1265

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013

ORGANIC FARMING

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the production of organic crops, fruits and vegetables along with the area under cultivation of such crops in each State/ UT during each of the last three years and the current year, product/crop-wise;
- (b) the demand and supply of these crops in the country?
- (c) whether organic farm products are costlier in the country;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide Minimum Support Price (MSP) and other incentives for organic farm producers in order to encourage them to take up organic farming on a massive scale?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a): Government is promoting production of organic crops, fruits and vegetables etc. through various schemes viz National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSHF), National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), Network Project on Organic Farming under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and various schemes of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

State wise data related to area and production are at Annexure-I & II and category wise data of production for the year 2010-11 & 2011-12 provided by APEDA is attached at Annexure-III.

(b): Demand for organic food items is on rise during the last few years. Ministry of Agriculture does not maintain data on demand, supply and consumption of various organic food items.

(c) & (d): Yes, organic products are costlier in the country due to demand by consumers for chemical residue free food grown by nature friendly methods without the use of synthetic inputs.

(e): There is no provision of Minimum Support Price (MSP) in respect of organic farm produce. However, Government is promoting organic farming by providing incentives to cultivators of organic food products under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) @ Rs. 10,000/- per hectare for maximum area of four hectare per beneficiary, setting up of vermicompost units @ 50% of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000/- per beneficiary and organic farming certification @ Rs. 5.00 lakh for group of farmers covering an area of 50 hectare. Assistance for organic food promotion is also available under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for projects formulated and approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee.