

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:375  
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2003  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ORGANIC FARMING  
GULAM MEHMOOD BANATWALLA

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

- (a) whether the Government have formulated a scheme for giving a major push and support to organic farming in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government of Kerala has approached the Union Government for locating the proposed National Institute of Organic Farming (NIOF) in Kerala;
- (d) if so, whether the Government of Kerala has offered 200 hectares of land for the proposed NIOF with all necessary facilities; and
- (e) if so, the action/decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 375 DUE FOR REPLY ON 18TH AUGUST, 2003.

(a)&(b): A proposal for a new scheme, 'National Project on Organic Farming' is under process for approval which includes setting up of a National Institute of Organic Farming (NIOF), whose function will be to promote and facilitate various aspects of organic farming in the country. The Scheme envisages inter-alia the following:

? Putting in place a system of certification of organic produce including prescribing National Standards of organic farming

? Capacity building for organic farming

? Support for commercial production units of organic inputs like fruit and vegetables waste compost units, biofertilizer production units and hatcheries for vermiculture

? Promotion and extension of organic farming.

(c)&(d): The Kerala Government has offered 200 hectare of land at Kerala Agricultural University, Thiruvizhamkunnu, district Palakkad with necessary assistance and facilities for setting up of NIOF.

(e): The NIOF will be set up at Ghaziabad by subsuming National Biofertilizer Development Centre, Ghaziabad. The existing Regional Biofertilizer Development Centre, Bangalore will be converted into Regional Organic Farming Centre for undertaking promotion of organic farming in all southern States including Kerala.