

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2974
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2003
GRADING AND MARKING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any grading and marking of agricultural products particularly organic food is done as per the Grading and Marking Act, 1937;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c): The Agricultural Produce (Grading & Marking) Act, 1937 empowers the Central Government to fix quality standards and grade designations in respect of agricultural commodities. So far, standards for 163 agricultural commodities have been notified under the Act.

Grading and Marking of organic food is, however, not covered under the above Act for the reason that organic food standards are process standards regulating inter-alia the use of inorganic fertilizers, insecticides, water. Since organic standards are process standards and not related to quality of agricultural commodities, these do not fall within the purview of Agricultural Produce (Grading & Marking) Act, 1937.