

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2328

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2006

SETTING UP OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ORGANIC FARMING IN KERALA

Rajendran Shri P.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for setting up of National Institute of Organic Farming in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has declined any request from State of Kerala for setting up of a Regional Institute of Organic Farming;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Union Government utilizing the opportunity for the development and export of organic products which are sufficient in Kerala; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): The Government of Kerala offered to make available 200 hectares of land either in Palakkad or Idukki district for setting up of National Institute of Organic Farming .

However, the National Bio-fertilizer Development Centre, Ghaziabad and its six Regional Centres at Hisar, Jabalpur, Nagpur, Bhubaneswar, Bangalore and Imphal have been converted into National Centre of Organic Farming and Regional Centres of Organic Farming. The Regional Centre of Organic Farming, Bangalore is working for promotion of organic farming in all Southern States including Kerala.

(c)&(d): No proposal has been received from the State of Kerala for setting up of a Regional Institute of Organic Farming.

(e)&(f): The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Agency (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce & Industry have taken the following initiatives for development and export of Organic Products from India:-

(i) The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has accredited 11 Certification Agencies for certifying organic products.

(ii) APEDA has taken up the issue of establishing equivalency of Indian Organic Standards with European Commission and USDA.

(iii) APEDA organizes awareness programmes for development of organic farming for export. This has led to increase in the certified area under organic production.

(iv) APEDA organizes training programmes for the domestic certification agencies to accredit and make them at par with international certification agencies. As a result, 5 domestic certification agencies have been accredited by APEDA.