

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:216

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006

NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON ORGANIC FARMING .

Prasad Shri Hari Kewal;Renge Patil Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has introduced National Programme for Organic Production to promote organic farming;
- (b) If so, the details thereof including the achievements made so far under this programme;
- (c) The recommendations made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to the Government for protection of soil fertility; and
- (d) The reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 216 DUE FOR REPLY ON 7TH AUGUST, 2006.

(a): Yes, Sir. The National Programme for Organic Farming was initiated to promote organic production.

(b): A new central sector scheme ` National Project on Organic Farming ` (NPOF) has been taken up as a pilot project for production, promotion and market development of organic farming in the country with an outlay of Rs.57.05 crore during 10th Plan period. The main components of the scheme are :-

(i) Capacity building through service provider.

(ii) Setting up of organic input units of fruit/vegetable waste compost/ bio-fertilizer/ vermi-culture hatcheries.

(iii) Training programmes and field demonstrations.

(iv) Market development and promotion of organic farming.

In addition, the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) being implemented by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) Ministry of Commerce & Industry includes the following programme :-

(i) Framing the National Standards for Organic Production and Certification Scheme.

(ii) Laying down procedures for export of certified organic products.

(iii) Accreditation of certifying agencies.

(iv) Updation of NPOP document.

(v) Introduction of Group Certification, awareness programme through training.

The major achievements made under the National Programme for Organic Production are given below:-

(i) The export of organic products has increased from Rs.50.00 crore in 2000-01 to Rs.95.00 crore in 2004-05.

(ii) To improve the trade with European Union (EU), an equivalency agreement has been established for acceptance of National Standards by EU Commission and the same has been notified by the EU Commission on 28.06.2006.

(iii) United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has accepted the conformatory assessment system of NPOP for accreditation of certification bodies. USDA has notified their acceptance on 16.02.2006.

(iv) APEDA has provided training to a number of organizations to develop them as Certification Bodies. As a result, five such domestic organizations have been accredited. This has contributed to reduction in cost of certification.

(c): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been carrying out multi-location, long term field experimentation under diverse agro-ecological regions and cropping system. Based on these experimentations, ICAR has been advocating the following multi-pronged strategy for protection of soil fertility:-

(i) Integrated use of locally available organic manure like Farm Yard Manure, Composts, Poultry Manure, Green Manure, Crop Residues etc.

(ii) Cultivation of legumes, cover crops & fodder crops as green manures.

(iii) Use of Microbial cultures for enhancing fixation of atmospheric nitrogen and solubilization of phosphorous in soil.

(iv) Balanced use of all the essential soil nutrients based on soil tests and crop requirement.

(d): Based on the recommendations of the ICAR, the Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) which includes soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manure and bio-fertilizers.