

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3426
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2006
GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD
Gohain Shri Rajen

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided norms for labeling/marketing of genetically modified foods and organic food products;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has also fixed norms for local certification of organic agricultural products to make it available in the local markets, in the interest of small farmers; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI)

(a) to (c): Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued a draft notification for fixing norms for labeling/marketing of genetically modified foods under provision of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules made thereunder. Ministry of Commerce & Industry has developed an institutional mechanism for the implementation of national standards for organic production through a National Accreditation Policy and Programme. This programme includes standards for organic production and processes as well as the regulations for use of the National Organic Certification Mark. The aims of the National Programme for Organic Production, inter alia, include the following:

- (a) To provide the means of evaluation of certification programmes for organic agriculture and products as per the approved criteria.
- (b) To accredit certification programmes.
- (c) To facilitate certificate of organic products in conformity to the National Standards for Organic Products.
- (d) To encourage the development of organic farming and organic processing.