

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3733

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006

PESTICIDE RESIDUES TEST BY ICAR

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

- (a) Whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and certain other agencies have been conducting pesticide residues test of soil regularly;
- (b) If so, the findings thereof and if not, the other modes followed for monitoring and deducting the pesticide residues in soil ;
- (c) Whether the Government has assessed the benefit of organic farming in the country; and
- (d) If so, the steps taken by the Government to encourage the organic farming in the country ?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Studies have been conducted in ICAR to determine the persistence of pesticides on crops following good agricultural practices and their terminal residues in soil at the time of harvest through an All India Network Project on Pesticides Residues.

(b) No residues have been detected in soil samples at harvest based on the field trials conducted during 2002-06 on different crops in different parts of the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A Network Project on Organic Farming has been launched at Project Directorate for Cropping Systems Research (ICAR), Modipuram with 13 centres spread all over the country, since April, 2004. The entire package regarding most suitable, profitable, and sustainable cropping systems under organic cultivation are being developed. Likewise, the management of on-farm and off-farm organic inputs under predominant and high value crops is being investigated.

Ministry of Agriculture has also started National Programme on Organic Farming w.e.f. October, 2004 with an outlay of Rs.57.05 crores for Xth Five Year Plan. Under this project, the components include:-

Capacity building through service provider.

Setting up of commercial input units like biofertiliser unit, Food/Vegetable wastes compost unit, vermiculture hatcheries, training for quality production of input for farmers and extension staff on Organic Farming.

Field demonstration by use of different organic inputs.

Setting up of model Organic Farm.

Market development etc.