

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2751
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th MARCH, 2023

CERTIFICATION OF FOOD ITEMS AS ORGANIC

2751 SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the scams in the certification of various food items as organic where non-organic food items are falsely certified as organic for the purposes of domestic sale and export and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the steps taken by Government in this regard to prevent the same?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) & (b): All Food Business Operators in India, including sellers and manufacturers of organic food products have to comply with prescribed standards and the provisions of Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration) Regulations, 2011. In addition, sellers and manufacturer of organic food products have to comply with Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017, as per which the organic food offered or promoted for sale shall also comply with all the applicable provisions of one of the following systems, namely:

- (i) National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP);
- (ii) Participatory Guarantee System for India (PGS-India)

In order to ensure the availability of safe food products, including organic food products, to the consumers, surveillance of Food Business Operators, including ones engaged with organic products, is conducted regularly at National level by the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) along with surveillance drives by the States/UTs as per their surveillance plans. Penal action is initiated against the defaulting FBOs by the Food Safety Officers of States/UTs as per the provisions of FSS Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), as the secretariat of NPOP, also carries out regular evaluation and surveillance of the Certification Bodies and certified operators and takes suitable action, as per the provisions of NPOP, in case any irregularities are noticed.
