

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2912
ANSWERED ON 20/12/2024

FAKE GROUPS OF ORGANIC COTTON GROWERS IN MADHYA PRADESH

2912. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are fake organic cotton producers in Madhya Pradesh exporting ordinary BT cotton as organic, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of cases of export of ordinary BT cotton as organic cotton that have come to the notice of Government in Madhya Pradesh so far and the action taken by Government thereon, so far;
- (c) the institutions certifying organic cotton and the criteria for its certification; and
- (d) the number of certification institutions in Madhya Pradesh whose registration has been cancelled after receiving complaints against them, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) & (b) The National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) is the organic regulatory standard of India for export of organic products. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is the designated secretariat for the implementation of NPOP. Through some media reports in the beginning of July 2024, APEDA came to know about existence of malpractices in organic certification of cotton. Accordingly, unannounced audits were done in months of July and August, which revealed severe non-compliances, leading to the suspension of one Certification Body for a year. Further, a Grower Group was terminated and criminal complaint was also filed with Madhya Pradesh Police against the manager of terminated Grower Group in which investigation is going on. Also, Show cause notices were issued to two other Certification Bodies.

(c) & (d) National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) establishes standards, procedures, and frameworks for the certification and export of organic products. Certification Bodies (CBs) accredited under NPOP verify crop production compliance. Regular annual audits and risk-based unannounced inspections are conducted by the NPOP's Evaluation Committee to ensure compliance. Currently, 35 active Certification Bodies are accredited to certify organic cotton production. List of Certification Bodies is annexed as Annexure-1.

The certification of organic products under NPOP is carried out by the accredited Certification Bodies which can operate in different States and Union territories including Madhya Pradesh. Due to complaints and serious non compliances found in the certification process in the State of

Madhya Pradesh during unannounced audit, one Certification Body under NPOP has been suspended in October 2024 for a period of one year. Earlier in the year 2022 also, two Certification Bodies accredited under NPOP were suspended and another two Certification Bodies were terminated by the National Accreditation Body (NAB) due to the irregularities and procedural lapses in the certification process including organic cotton.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) & (d) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred question no. 2912 for answer on 20.12.2024

| Sr. No. | Accredited Certification Bodies under the NPOP as on date 16.12.2024 |
|---------|---|
| 1 | Aditi Organic Certifications Pvt. Ltd |
| 2 | Andhra Pradesh State Organic Products Certification Authority (APSOPCA) |
| 3 | Bihar State Seed and Organic Certification Agency (BSSOCA) |
| 4 | Bureau Veritas (India) Pvt. Limited |
| 5 | CERT ID India Private Limited |
| 6 | Chhattisgarh Certification Society, India (CGCERT) |
| 7 | Chhattisgarh State Organic Certification Agency (CGOCERT) |
| 8 | CU Inspections India Pvt. Ltd. |
| 9 | Eccentric Organic Private Limited |
| 10 | ECOCERT India Pvt. Ltd. |
| 11 | GCL International Assessment Private Limited |
| 12 | Getcert Private Limited |
| 13 | Glaze Corporate Services Private Limited |
| 14 | Global Certification Society |
| 15 | Green Cert Bio Solutions Pvt. Ltd |
| 16 | Gujarat Organic Products Certification Agency (GOPCA) |
| 17 | IMO Control Pvt. Ltd. |
| 18 | Indian Society for Certification of Organic Products (ISCOP) |
| 19 | INDOCERT |
| 20 | Karnataka State Organic Certification Agency (KSOCA) |
| 21 | Krushi Certification Private Limited |
| 22 | Lacon Quality Certification Pvt.Ltd. |
| 23 | Madhya Pradesh State Organic Certification Agency (MPSOCA) |
| 24 | Meghalaya State Organic Certification Body |
| 25 | MS Agroland Services Private Limited |
| 26 | Natural Organic Certification Agro Pvt. Ltd. (NOCA) |
| 27 | Odisha State Organic Certification Agency (OSOCA) |
| 28 | OneCert International Private Limited |
| 29 | Rajasthan State Organic Certification Agency (RSOCA) |
| 30 | SGS India Pvt. Ltd. |
| 31 | Shivalik Natural Resources Management Society (SNRMS) |
| 32 | Tamil Nadu Organic Certification Department (TNOCD) |
| 33 | Telangana State Organic Certification Authority (TGOCA) |
| 34 | Uttar Pradesh State Organic Certification Agency (UPSOCA) |
| 35 | Uttarakhand State Organic Certification Agency |
