

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1489
ANSWERED ON 01/08/2025

ORGANIC COTTON SCAM IN MADHYA PRADESH

1489. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :-

- (a) the number of cases of organic cotton scam which have come to light so far in Madhya Pradesh, the details thereof, district-wise;
- (b) the number of FIRs which have been registered against certification agencies in the case of export of ordinary cotton in the name of organic cotton in Madhya Pradesh, and the action that has been taken against them so far, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the number of certification agencies that have been reinstated, out of those certification agencies whose registrations were cancelled, and the basis for their reinstatement?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a), (b) & (c) The system for organic certification under National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) involves a third-party certification system of organic processes and organic produce, which is certified across the supply chain by a certification body (Govt. or private). Cotton is covered under NPOP only till production level. Thereafter, the post production process including ginning, processing etc is done under private certification and not covered under NPOP.

In 2022, due to irregularities in certification of organic cotton, accreditation of two certification bodies was terminated while two certification bodies were suspended. In 2024, one more certification body was suspended for one year, for irregularities in the certification operations, including certification of Organic Cotton.

With respect to the two terminated certification bodies, the said certification bodies are not in existence, under NPOP. With respect to the two certification bodies suspended in 2022, their period of suspension was for 6 months and 12 months. After the completion of this period, and complying with the accreditation requirements under NPOP, they were reinstated in the year 2024. In case of the certification body suspended in 2024, the period of operation of the suspension is for a period of 1 year, with effect from 1st October 2024, which is yet to be over, thus the said certification body is not in operation.

With respect to the action taken against the certification bodies, the same was taken as per Regulation 4.5.14 and 4.5.16 of NPOP 2014, based on the severity of the non-compliance and facts of the case. With the introduction of the 8th Edition of the NPOP, with effect from 3rd July, 2025, enhanced penalties and sanction provisions are applicable against certification bodies and other organic operators, under Chapter 6 of the NPOP.
