

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1751
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH MARCH, 2018

COST OF ORGANIC FARMING

1751. DR. MAMTAZ SANGHAMITA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE **‡ãðŠãäÓã** एवं किसान कल्याण **½ãâããè** be pleased to state:

- whether the cost of organic farming is greater than that of farming based on chemical fertilizers and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- whether there is any policy to popularize organic farming amongst the farmers and farm holders and if so, the details thereof; and
- whether the organic farming is giving equal or better yields than the present conventional farming and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

‡ãðŠãäÓã एवं किसान कल्याण **½ãâããè** **½ãñâ** **Àã•¼ã** **½ãâããè** (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) to (c): Cost of organic agriculture largely depends on on-farm generation of inputs. When on-farm organic inputs are used, cost of production per unit area is less by 13 % under organic agriculture than inorganic management. However, if organic inputs from outside the farm are purchased and utilized, the cost of production increases by about 15-20 % depending on the nature of inputs used. Integrated Organic Farming System (IOFS) models being developed under NPOF promises to meet 70-80 % of organic inputs within the farm thus reducing the market input cost considerably.

During the conversion period of initial two to three years, yield levels are expected to be low till soil system regains to respond to organic production system especially in the intensive agriculture areas.

The study conducted through on-station experiments of Network Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) and scientific evidences clearly establish that immediate switching over of high intensive agriculture areas to organic systems lead to reduction in crop yields considerably (from 5 to 15%), especially during initial 2 years; before soil system regains and crop yields come to comparable level. In overall, the yield starts improving or comparable with chemical management from 3rd year onwards under organic management. The scientific Packages of Practices (PoP's) for organic production of crops developed through NPOF should be adopted for keeping the crop productivity at comparable or higher level and should be utilized in development schemes.

Government of India has been implementing dedicated schemes of PKVY &
