

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 678
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2018

LABELLING AS ORGANIC PRODUCTS

678. COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that food items, vegetables, fruits, etc. are being sold at exorbitant rates by labelling them as organic products;
- (b) whether any mechanism has been put into place for verifying the organic character of such products;
- (c) if so, the result of such verifications; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) : No Sir, there is no such information.

(b) to (d) : As per the information received from Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017 have been notified in the Gazette of India on 29.12.2017. In these regulations, it is prescribed that 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).

Further, it is specified that labelling on the package of organic food shall convey full and accurate information on the organic status of the product. Such product may carry a certification or quality assurance mark of one of the systems mentioned above in addition to the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India's organic logo.

It is mandated that the Food Business Operators shall comply with all the provisions of these Regulations by 1st July, 2018.

Further, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has informed that export of organic products is through a regulatory mechanism under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) implemented by Ministry of Commerce notified by DGFT under the FTDR Act [the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992].

Any agricultural organic product exported has to be certified under NPOP by an accredited certification body for exports. The organic certification process is implemented and monitored through a web based traceability system.
