

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 956  
ANSWERED ON 26/07/2023

**CERTIFICATION OF ORGANIC COTTON**

**956. SHRI SHANMUGA SUNDARAM K.:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that a colossal certification scam is underway in the name of certification of organic cotton, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by the Union Government to prevent the same; and
- (c) whether any foreign countries have banned the imports of organic cotton from India, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

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

(a) & (b) Under National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), Transaction Certificate is issued by accredited certification bodies for organic raw cotton, up to production level only. Further processing and trading certification are done under private standards.

Under the NPOP, regular annual surveillance audits and announced & unannounced inspections are carried out by Evaluation Committee for checking the compliances of NPOP. In case of non-compliances reported during the audit, action is taken against the certified operators and accredited Certification Bodies.

In 2022, the National Accreditation Body (NAB) of NPOP suspended two Certification Bodies and withdrew accreditation of two other Certification Bodies due to the irregularities and procedural lapses. The action taken against Certification Bodies was based on the irregularities established in the certification procedures and lapses in issuing transaction certificates for organic products, including organic cotton, under the provisions of NPOP.

(c) No country has imposed any ban on import of raw organic cotton from India.

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