

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3726
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21ST DECEMBER, 2021

PRODUCTION OF ORGANIC COTTON

3726. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- a) the reasons that growers have not been able to enter into contract with retailers to push production of organic cotton;
- b) the method adopted by the Ministry for addressing the increased labour requirements, greater variability in organic yields year-to-year, lower fiber quality, etc;
- c) whether lack of seed breeding efforts and non-availability of seeds is contributing to less production of organic cotton; and
- d) if so, the steps being taken by the Ministry to address these issues in a time-bound manner?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): The state governments are responsible for production of all types of cotton including organic cotton. The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) advocates for promotion of specialty/ organic cotton through user industry to enable farmers get maximum returns for produce. Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce & Industry is the Secretariat for implementation of National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP). NPOP provides an institutional mechanism for accreditation of certification bodies and certification of organic

process & products. Presently, raw organic cotton (seed cotton) is mandated under the certification of NPOP as notified under the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act of Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). The processing such as ginning, spinning, knitting, weaving etc are not covered under NPOP as mandatory requirement for export from the country and the processed form of organic cotton is exported under private certification system. To overcome all the challenges & issues of concern in the supply chain of processed form of cotton, on the advice of Ministry of Textiles, APEDA has developed and launched Standard for Chain of Custody for Indian Organic Fibres & Products in 2020, on voluntary basis under NPOP for certification of fibres from farm to made-ups.

Besides, Government is promoting organic farming under the schemes viz., Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) since 2015-16. Both the schemes provide end to end support for organic farmers from organic production to certification and marketing including post harvest management support like processing, packaging, storage, etc.

(c) & (d): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR) and All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Cotton have released 64 non-Bt (non-GM) cotton varieties/hybrids during 2017-2021 that can be adopted by organic cotton growers. Nucleus/breeder seeds are available with the developer and seeds are being provided to organic cotton farmers after getting the indent. ICAR-CICR and AICRP on Cotton are helping farmers by providing source of breeder seeds and package of practices for organic cotton production
