

102	<i>Written Answers to</i>	[RAJYA SABHA]	<i>Unstarred Questions</i>
1	2		3
9	Jharkhand		1.367
10	Karnataka		1059.681
11	Kerala		11.7411
12	Madhya Pradesh		197.2112
13	Maharashtra		234.081
14	Odisha		212.069
15	Punjab		4810.384
16	Rajasthan		110.2209
17	Tamil Nadu		167.5706
18	Uttar Pradesh		1492.972
19	Uttarakhand		593.641
20	West Bengal		52.0358
	TOTAL		160303.8

Promotion of organic farming

2043. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of funds spent by the Ministry to promote organic farming;

(b) the total exchequer Government earns through export of organic products; and

(c) the steps taken to promote organic farming in the country especially in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) The total financial assistance provided by Government through various schemes is Rs. 35179.74 lakh during 2011-12.

(b) As per information provided by APEDA, the export of organic products was Rs. 1866.33 crores for the year 2011-12.

(c) Government is taking steps for promoting organic farming in the country including Tamil Nadu through various schemes *viz.* National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Under NHM financial assistance is provided for setting up of vermi-compost units @50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000/- per beneficiary; funds are also provided @ 50% of the cost subject to maximum of Rs. 10,000 per hectare for a maximum area of 4 hectare per beneficiary or adoption of organic farming. Similar norms of assistance are applicable for assistance given under RKVY. Under National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), financial assistance is also provided as back ended subsidy through NABARD for setting up/strengthening of existing Bio-fertilizer and /or Bio-pesticide Production Units, assistance upto @ 25% of total financial outlay or Rs. 40.00 lakh, whichever is less; and for setting up of Fruit and Vegetables Wastes/Agro-Wastes Compost Production Units @ 33% of total financial outlay or Rs. 60.00 lakh, whichever is less.

Decline in fertility of soil

†2044. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that quality of soil in Uttarakhand and other parts of the country is falling down day by day;

(b) if so, whether Government would establish Central Government laboratories in each district of these States including Uttarakhand to check the quality of soil;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reasons for which farmers in Uttarakhand are not able to grow ginger and soyabeen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) Indiscriminate and imbalanced use of agrochemical and chemical fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter over years may

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.