

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1953  
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2010  
KUTTANAD AS `SPECIAL AGRICULTURE ZONE`  
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation has suggested to declare Kuttanad as a Special Agriculture Zone (SAZ);
- (b) if so, details of suggestions in this regard; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to set up such SAZ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)&(b): Yes, Madam. Considering the uniqueness of Kuttanad agriculture, particularly the predominantly practiced paddy farming and the fragile wetland system Dr. M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) has recommended to declare the region as a Special Agricultural Zone to promote eco-system friendly farming, generation of additional economic activity, promotion of investments, creation of employment opportunities and development of farming infrastructure.

(c): The Government has approved a package for development of Kuttanad Wetland Eco-system envisaging an outlay of Rs. 1840.75 crore which inter-alia, includes the component of declaring Kuttanad as a Special Agricultural Zone with financial outlay of Rs. 15.00 crore. Government of Kerala has been advised to formulate Detailed Project Report (DPR) for implementing this component.