

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5222
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2010
BOOSTING FOOD PRODUCTION
Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister in a bid to tackle shortage of essential supplies and increased food prices, has urged the State Governments to focus on boosting food production and promised them all possible assistance from the Union Government;
- (b) if so, whether it has also been suggested that States must depute officers as agriculture commissioners for achieving the desired result; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the other suggestions made in this regard and the extent to which the States have implemented such suggestions?

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) to (c): Yes, Madam. In the conference of Chief Ministers convened by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on 6.2.2010, the states were asked to focus on boosting food production and enhancing productivity levels by adopting improved technologies, better quality of seed and timely availability of other critical input through dovetailing the State Schemes with the Government of India schemes. Hon'ble Prime Minister also stressed for strengthening and modernization of Agriculture Extension services and also suggested to ensure posting of best officer as Agriculture Production Commissioners to look after the agriculture developmental programmes in the states.

Hon'ble Prime Minister requested the Chief Ministers of Wheat growing states to conduct a review for ensuring timely availability of critical inputs for increased production. The states were also asked to pay attention to timely collection of reliable statistics of production as the production figure would influence the food prices.