

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:965  
ANSWERED ON:15.11.2010  
IMPACT OF FTAS ON PLANTATION CROPS  
Karunakaran Shri P.

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether exports from Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand with whom FTA Agreements are being negotiated is likely to impact plantation crops and farmers in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of consultations held with the State Government and other corrective steps being taken in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) (b) & (c): During the ongoing negotiations with ASEAN countries, including Malaysia and Thailand, adequate safeguards are taken for providing comprehensive protection to the plantation and other sensitive areas. Majority of Agricultural items are protected under the Agreements by placing them in the Exclusion (Negative List) where no tariff concessions are given to these Countries. Besides, all such agreements have provisions for imposition of Safeguard Measures to protect against any surge of imports. At all stages of the negotiations, domestic consultations are held through several rounds of inter Ministerial meetings and stakeholder dialogues, including Ministries of Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Commodity Boards and Export Promotion Council