

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:222
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010
OIL PALM CULTIVATION
Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any scheme/programme to promote cultivation of oil palm in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the incentives given to the farmers for encouraging cultivation of oil palm in the country;
- (d) whether the Government is aware that certain States including Andhra Pradesh are levying tax on the oil palm produce at 4% from the farmers causing financial burden to them; and
- (e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to dissuade the States from levying such tax?

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. The Government provides assistance for oilpalm under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize' (ISOPOM). 12 States viz; Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Goa, Orissa, Kerala, Mizoram, Assam, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Tripura are covered under ISOPOM. Four States viz. Assam, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Tripura are not implementing the Oil Palm Development Programme. Besides ISOPOM, assistance can also be availed by the States under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

(c): Assistance is provided for cost of planting material, maintenance of plantation for 4 years, cultivation inputs, installation of drip irrigation system, diesel pump sets, training, development of waste-land, extension and publicity, establishment & staff, demonstrations, leaf- nutrients analysis laboratories and testing of genotypes under various environmental conditions, and innovative interventions etc.

(d) & (e): No Tax/VAT is being levied on Oil Palm Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs) procured from farmers in the State of Andhra Pradesh.