

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2153
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2010
FOOD CRISIS
Mani Shri Jose K.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any input from multilateral body/ international agencies to focus on the agriculture sector for resolving the impending food crisis in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether steps are being taken to promote agricultural growth in the country including Kerala; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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 (d): Centre for Trade and Development (CENTAD) has observed (through an Article posted at their website) that Food Crisis is impending and country needs to gear up its efforts to avert a serious crisis.

The Government has taken several initiatives to ensure that food production not only keeps pace with increasing demand but there is surplus to meet unforeseen situation. These initiatives include higher investment in agriculture and rural infrastructure, in R&D, on enhancing productivity, in strengthening post harvest infrastructure, appropriate diversification and also strengthening markets so that small holder farmers improve their earnings.

The imports of rice and wheat are presently allowed at zero import duty and their export from central pool and on private account are not been allowed except as humanitarian assistance to deserving friendly countries. Thus sufficient stock of wheat and rice is available in the country and food grains situation is not likely to experience any constraint in near future.