

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2232
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009
ASSISTANCE TO PINEAPPLE GROWERS
Thomas Shri P. T.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to help pineapple farmers in the country including Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the fluctuating prices of pineapple has affected a large number of farmers who are dependant on this seasonal crop;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures being taken to help the farmers;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to start processing units for pineapple and give subsidy to such farmers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated in this regard?

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. Under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture for the North Eastern States including Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and National Horticulture Mission (NHM), the Government is promoting cultivation of Pineapple in the country including Kerala. Under the Schemes, the farmers are given financial assistance for cultivation of Pineapple @ Rs.15000/- per ha limited to 4 ha per beneficiary. Besides, assistance is also provided for establishment of nurseries, Integrated Nutrient Management/Integrated Pest Management, adoption of organic farming and creation of water resources for the development of horticulture including Pineapple.

(c) & (d): Price fluctuation in the market is quite normal in the case of Pineapple. In Kerala, Pineapple Growers have experienced some degree of price fluctuation due to increased production in the districts of Ernakulam, Kottayam, Iddukki, Pathanamthitta & Thrissur. In order to stabilize the price of Pineapple, Nadukkara Agro Processing Company Ltd, a public sector undertaking of the State Government of Kerala, is procuring Pineapple from the farmers of the State.

(e): Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI), under the scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to all implementing agency @ 25% of the cost of Plant & Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs.50.00 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs.75.00 lakh in difficult areas. In addition, under the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern and Himalayan States, higher levels of assistance is provided @50% upto Rs.4.00 crore for construction and Rs.1.00 crore for Upgradation of fruits and vegetables processing units.

(f): An amount of Rs.66.00 crore has been earmarked for implementation of the scheme during 2009-10.