

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2947
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2005
PLANTATION WORKERS
Thomas Shri P.C.

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

- (a) whether Plantation workers are facing crisis in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether poverty, diseases, including epidemics, are thriving in many of the plantations in the country especially in the State of Kerala;
- (d) whether AIDS have been detected in such areas; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard? .

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a) & (b): It would not be correct to state that the plantation workers are facing crisis in the country. The conditions in some of the plantations like rubber and coffee have shown improvement in the recent months. In the case of tea also, there has been some improvement in the average auction prices recently. The prices of pepper have also shown some improvement after the announcement of the export subsidy scheme on export of pepper. The vanilla prices have normalized to levels prevailing in 2001. The service conditions of the workers of the plantation industry are governed by the Plantations Labour Act and the workers are getting either negotiated wages or the minimum wages.

(c) to (e): Generally Plantation workers are getting certain minimum wages. Diseases, including epidemics and AIDS, may occur in the plantation areas as in any other part of the country. Under the Plantations Labour Act, certain medical facilities are extended by the management to the workers.