

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1383
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009
PROTECTION TO COCONUT GROWERS
Basheer Shri E. T. Muhammed;Thomas Shri P. T.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether zero per cent import duty on palmolein oil has adversely affected the price of coconut in Kerala as a result of which the coconut growers have been adversely affected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and
- (c) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to protect the interest of the coconut growers?

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): Though reduction of import duty on Palmolein oil has some bearing on the price of coconut oil, it does not directly affect the price of coconut. Moreover, on account of the fixing of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of de-husked coconut at Rs.12/- per kg. for the 2009 crop season, it is unlikely that coconut growers will be adversely affected.

(c): The Government of India has increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for both milling and ball copra for the 2009 season, in advance, with a view to protect the interest of coconut based industry and growers. The price of milling copra has been fixed at Rs.4450 per quintal as against Rs.3660 per quintal in 2008 and that of ball copra at Rs.4700 per quintal as against Rs.3910 per quintal in 2008. Further, the MSP for de- husked coconut has been fixed at Rs.12/- per kg for the 2009 crop season as against Rs.9.88 per kg for the 2008 crop season.