

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
RAJYA SABHA  
QUESTION NO 04.12.2009  
ANSWERED ON**

**IMPACT OF BIO FUELS ON FOOD PRICES AND PRODUCTION .**

1703

Shri Rajkumar Dhoot

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that a World Bank study has revealed that bio-fuels are responsible for hike in food prices that has pushed hundred million people below poverty line;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the impact of bio-fuels in India; and
- (d) the steps being taken to increase food production to bring the food price at reasonable level?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION)

(SHRI K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (d):The World Bank Study was based on bio-fuel production in USA where edible green crops like Soyabean, maize etc. were purportedly diverted for obtaining ethanol. Very little area is under bio-fuel production in India. Further, the Government as a policy encourages bio-fuel plantations only on wastelands. As such there has been no adverse impact of promoting bio-fuels on increase in food prices in India. The Government has also been encouraging research institutions such as Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to develop high yielding varieties and technologies for achieving higher production and productivity of all food crops. Besides, in pursuance of the decision taken in the meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on `National Food Security Mission` has been launched from Rabi 2007-08. The aim of the Mission is to increase production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10 million tonnes, 8 million tonnes and 2 million tonnes respectively by the end of 11th Plan. In addition, the Government of India provides assistance for seeds and crop development programmes to enhance production and productivity under various schemes such as `Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production & Distribution of Quality Seeds`, `Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize (ISOPOM)`, `Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)`, `Macro - Management of Agriculture (MMA)`, `Technology Mission on Cotton`, `Technology Mission on Jute & Mesta`, `National Horticulture Mission (NHM)` and `Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States (TMNE)` etc.