

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

RAJYA SABHA

QUESTION NO 04.12.2009

ANSWERED ON

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN FARMING SECTOR .

1705

Shri A. Elavarasan

Will the Minister of COALCOAL AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government is aware that the agriculture production is declining during recent years;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any initiatives to promote research and development in the field of agriculture since there is threat for food security; and
- (c) 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)

(SHRI K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (c): No, Sir. The production of rice, wheat, cereals and total foodgrains in the country has steadily increased during the last five years i.e., 2004-05 to 2008-09 (4th advance estimates). Government has taken several initiatives to promote research and development and adoption of improved technologies in the field of agriculture. Some of the major initiatives include enhancing crop productivity through development of superior varieties having high disease resistance, high yield and responding well for precision farming practices, evolving appropriate crop management practices and formulating efficient crop based cropping systems for sustainable food production, intensification of research on development of commercially viable hybrid technology for achieving higher yield, development of molecular techniques and their application in crop breeding with emphasis on genetic engineering etc.