India's food law can inspire many countries: UN official - The Economic Times

By PTI | 4 Jul, 2013, 04.13PM IST

NEW DELHI: India's food security law has global significance and it can inspire many countries to come up with similar legislation, a UN official said today.

The Union Cabinet yesterday approved implementation of the food security law through an ordinance to give 67 per cent of the population the right to highly subsidised foodgrains. India is home to 25 per cent of the world's hungry poor.

"It (the food law) has global significance," Olivier De Schutter, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, said here. "I believe it is an important movement for the right to food in India. It can inspire many countries to do the same thing."

De Schutter, who met Food Minister K V Thomas today, said other countries have made similar attempts but India's social welfare programme is the largest in the world because of the sheer size of its population.

Some countries that run social welfare programmes to provide food security may remove or stop them with changes in the government and fiscal conditions, he said.

"What this bill will do is it will protect as a legal right what otherwise are benefits given away as charity by the government. I think it is of great and symbolic significance," the official told reporters after meeting the Food Minister here.

Asked if food inflation would escalate with the procurement of grains by the government, he said, "The debate that the food law will have a huge cost must be put in the right perspective. The law has a fiscal cost and it also has a cost for consumers because..."
Thirteen-year-old Faizan Ali Mir’s inability to solve a mathematics problem last year pushed him to invent a formula for cracking the magic squares.

India’s food law can inspire many countries: UN official
India’s food security law has global significance and it can inspire many countries to come up with similar legislation.

CSIR to launch its fastest supercomputer in Bangalore
CSIR is all set to launch its fastest supercomputer at India’s first ever big data science institute in Bangalore later this month.

Hot Young Creatives: Meet the under-30 stars of Indian advertising
They are the under-30 creative stars with a future brighter than a shiny gold Lion. And may we add bagging a spot on this list is no easy feat.

New ventures that build technology-based solutions to boost agriculture
A number of professionals like Kumar are turning to careers in agriculture, enticed by growing consumer demand and a shortage of quality produce.

Inme, a differentiated business model to instill life skills in children
The mix of varied experience has helped Inme craft a twin revenue stream for the business. They work directly with schools, creating special learning programmes.

Why private universities are set to be the future of quality education in India
As students demand quality learning with a wider choice of subjects & an assurance of employability, pvt universities are promising that change.

Taxpayers are financing this programme.

To implement the law, the government will spend Rs 1,25,000 crore every year to supply 62 million tonnes of rice, wheat and coarse cereals.

"But the cost of not treating the hunger is immense and completely underestimated. There is no better investment for the country than to invest in its children," he noted.

The food programme will be implemented through the public distribution system (PDS). The biggest challenge is fixing pilferage in the PDS in states where poverty is more, according to Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP) Chairman Ashok Gulati.

"The PDS leakage although has reduced significantly but it is still a concern," De Schutter said. "Certainly, they need to pay attention."

De Schutter noted that Chapter 9 of the food security bill has provisions for a grievance redressal mechanism.

"I am particularly interested in how the redressal grievance commission will function and how people should be informed about the new law," he added.

Schutter is preparing a report on world food security and is in India to study the country’s food law.
India's food law can inspire many countries: UN official - The Economic Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Readers' opinions (0)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEWEST</strong></td>
<td><strong>OLDEST</strong></td>
<td><strong>RECOMMENDED</strong></td>
<td><strong>MOST DISCUSSED</strong></td>
<td><strong>AGREE</strong></td>
<td><strong>DISAGREE</strong></td>
<td><strong>LOGGED IN COMMENTS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TLN SUNANDRA RAJA</strong> (MUMBAI)</td>
<td>128</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News items of importance to majority population and which is being opposed by opposition political parties, should have been printed on the first page so that the readers can understand such issues.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tushar (Ahmedabad)</strong></td>
<td>17 Hours ago</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay Hind...Very Good Bill by Govt of INDIA...jai ho...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shivsh Aggarwal</strong> (Gurgaon, Haryana)</td>
<td>17 Hours ago</td>
<td>Silver: 871</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the most difficult law to implement.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vivek</strong> (India)</td>
<td>18 Hours ago</td>
<td>Silver: 2086</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Believe me, this is an unwanted useless bill, which is just a poll gimmick. Our constitution guarantees the right to live, and not right to eat. The respective states already have their own food security measures where rice is free for BPL families. The BPL definition is not as faulty as in GoI planning commission methods too. The Indian Government better enact laws to ensure that the warehoused grains are not lost as usual to rats and poor storage facility. (We see a 25 percent loss!)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amit Gulhane</strong> (Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh)</td>
<td>16 Hours ago</td>
<td>Silver: 1254</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inshort Just to get votes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INFOCUS ON ET TODAY**

**TOP STORIES**

- DoCoMo holds out to iPhone mania but at what cost?
- Energy price reforms no quick fix for blackouts
Political parties shouldn't promise freebies: SC

The court said that the freebies can influence the people and disturb the level playing field.

PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY

Samsung unveils curved OLED TVs, five times costlier than LCD

Microsoft revamps Windows 8, brings in Windows 8.1

Samsung Galaxy Core smartphone launched at Rs 15,690

EMERGING ENTERPRISE

Yogesh & Suchna Shah's The Backpacker turns into a Rs 80L venture

A day in the life of Madan Padaki's startup HeadHeldHigh Services

Jameel Shah: A bag factory worker who set up a Rs 8L dancing shoes company