

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2109  
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2010  
JHUM CULTIVATION  
Ghatowar Shri Paban Singh

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether any scientific research has been conducted on 'Jhum Cultivation' in the hilly areas of North Eastern India by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Jhum Cultivation is adversely affecting the environment and is a factor for climate change etc.; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through its Institute ICAR Research Complex for north-eastern hill region located at Barapani, Meghalaya has developed several model agricultural systems, popularly known as agroforestry models which are adopted as an alternative to jhum cultivation.

(c) & (d): Jhum cultivation leads to reduction in forest cover due to slashing and burning vis-à-vis biomass (carbon) removal from the hill ecosystems. This affects the ecosystem services locally and also contributes to over all carbon imbalances. Further, intensive jhum on the slopes lead to enhanced soil erosion and increases the frequency of landslides as well. Soil erosion causes loss of soil fertility that leads to reduced crop production.