

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2156
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2010
CULTIVATION IN PLAIN AND HILLY AREAS
Bhagat Shri Sudarshan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a difference between cultivation in plain and hilly areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any decision to formulate a policy keeping in view the difficulties of cultivation in hilly areas; and
- (d) 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 (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (d): Yes, Madam. In hill areas mainly contour farming is adopted. The varieties of crops grown in hills are different from the ones cultivated in the plains. Most of the farm operations in hills are done manually against substantial use of farm machines in the plains. Farming system in hills is generally a combination of farm related activities like cropping husbandry production, livestock, poultry, fisheries, forestry, Pastoral, Silviculture system, horticulture etc.

Horticulture is inherently more suitable for the hills. A Centrally sponsored scheme of `Horticulture Mission for North - East & Himalayan States (HMNEH) known as Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim (TMNE) is being implemented by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for holistic development of Horticulture in the region.

Another programme on - Special Central Assistance to state plan schemes of Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) is being implemented with a view to protect hill slopes for encouraging settled cultivation and to improve socio economic status of jhumia families in the States of NorthEastern Region.