

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4565
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2010
SHIFTING CULTIVATION
Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the practice of shifting cultivation continues in the country in North-Eastern and Eastern parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the area under shifting cultivation, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to discourage this practice and introduce modern agricultural practices in the said region?

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) & (b): Yes, Madam. Shifting cultivation is a primitive practice of cultivation in the States of North Eastern region and eastern parts of the country. As per studies conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), about 14.66 lakh ha. areas are affected by Shifting Cultivation mainly in seven States of North Eastern Region namely; Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. The State- wise details of the extent of Shifting Cultivation/Jhum areas are Annexed.

(c): With a view to protect hill slopes, reduce land degradation, encourage and assist Jhumia families to develop jhum land for productive purposes with improved cultivation and modern agriculture practices, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Special Central Assistance to State Plan Scheme on Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) in seven States of the North Eastern Region of the country. Under this scheme various soil and water conservation measures along with livelihood support interventions are implemented on watershed approach basis with 100 % Central assistance to the States covered under the scheme.