

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:346  
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2011  
TOBACCO CULTIVATION  
Mirdha Dr. Jyoti

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

- (a) whether the Government/ICAR is contemplating research with a view to look for/identify/allow alternate crop to replace tobacco with the aim of providing the farmers a suitable alternative source of sustenance and ensuring that tobacco cultivation is progressively discontinued;
- (b) if so, the broad outlines of the intended/ongoing research;
- (c) the institution of ICAR or outside ones which has been entrusted with the task; and
- (d) the time by which the research is likely to be completed?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) A pilot project titled "Alternative crops to bidi and Chewing tobacco in different agro-ecological sub regions" is to be completed in three phases viz.,

(i) Identification of alternative crop/cropping system

(ii) Demonstration and

(iii) Popularization of the viable crops/cropping systems in different states. The pilot project was initiated in October, 2008 for three years. However, the study is likely to be extended till 2015.

(c) Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry, its Research stations and All India Network Research Project on Tobacco (AINRPT) centres located in different tobacco growing areas of the country are entrusted with this task.

(d) The research project will be completed by year 2015.