

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5658
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2013
ADVERSE IMPACT OF CULTIVATION OF OIL PALM
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a study by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) indicates that the cultivation of oil palm leads to deforestation, loss of habitat for endangered species and increase in green-house gases emissions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any steps to find a suitable replacement for this crop;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

- (a) & (b): As per WWF's estimates, the expansion of oil palm plantations is likely to cause 4 m ha of forest loss by 2020 in global level especially in Indonesia and Malaysia. As per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of India, the cultivation of oil palm/oil bearing plants is a non-forestry activity. Therefore, plantation of oil palm in forest areas is not being encouraged.
- (c) & (d): Oil Palm is being cultivated in India as an alternate crop for edible oils. Government of India is implementing a Centrally sponsored "Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" for increasing the production and productivity of Oilseed crops in the country to meet the demand of edible oil. As a result, the production of total oilseeds has increased from 248.82 lakh tonnes in 2009-10 to 297.99 lakh tonnes in 2011-12.
- (e): Does not arise.