

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1370
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2009
SUPPORT TO SHIFTING CULTIVATION
Singh Baba Shri K.C.

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has evolved any policy for supporting and promoting shifting cultivation for providing necessary means of livelihood to the homeless and landless ethnic tribals, especially those in the hills of the Uttarakhand region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for promoting such cultivation under the Eleventh Five Year Plan, indicating the projects and targets contemplated thereunder?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Environment & Forests has informed that shifting cultivation as a policy is not supported because of its adverse effect on the environment and its unsustainable nature. The National Forest Commission, in its report finalized in 2006, has recommended weaning away people from Shifting Cultivation.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests provides funds for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas including problem lands in the country through a two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level under National Afforestation Programmes (NAP) Scheme in the country including Uttarakhand State. Thirty three FDA projects are supported for regeneration in jhum area being problem lands under NAP Scheme in the country. However, no project has been sanctioned in the State of Uttarakhand.