

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 327
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH NOVEMBER, 2021

SHIFTING/JHUM CULTIVATION

327. SHRI VINCENT H. PALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study/research on the impact of Shifting/Jhum Cultivation on pollution and CO₂ Emissions, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to incentivise farmers to switch away from “Slash and Burn”; and
- (c) whether the incentives/subsidies offered will cover the entire cost of adopting alternative technologies/practices, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) Yes, Sir. The study conducted by National Remote Sensing Centre indicates that the total emissions from shifting cultivation areas are 3.5×10^{-3} Tg of CO₂, 2.0×10^{-4} Tg of CO, 1.32×10^{-5} Tg of CH₄ alongwith other trace gases.

(b) & (c): As an alternative to “Slash and Burn” cultivation, the government has taken steps to develop and disseminate the following improved practices: -

(i) Integrated farming system involving agriculture, horticulture, livestock, fisheries and silvipastoral components.

(ii) Introduction of Himalayan Alder (*Alnus nepalensis*) for restoration of *jhum* fallow lands.

(iii) Contour bunding of abandoned *jhum* lands.

Further, the Government has also launched Mission on Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) to promote organic farming in a cluster approach.
