

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 31**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2025

**OIL PALM CULTIVATION**

\*31. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any assessments on changes in the quality and water level in the North Eastern Region (NER) and Andaman and Nicobar Islands where Oil Palm cultivation is carried out/done, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has undertaken any studies to assess the change in biodiversity in areas where oil palm cultivation is undertaken in the NER and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details regarding the number of farmers who reportedly gave up Oil Palm farming in the above mentioned areas along with the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 31 FOR 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2025 REGARDING “OIL PALM  
CULTIVATION”.**

(a): The Reassessment Committee of ICAR-Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IOPR) has conducted a study in 2020 to assess the potential area of oil palm cultivation in the country including North-Eastern States and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands using weather and soil parameters like, rainfall, minimum temperature, length of continuous dry period, soil depth and slope (for rainfed conditions) and ground water level, rainfall, minimum temperature, double /triple cropped areas (for irrigated conditions). Spatial digital maps were prepared with the help of above-mentioned weather and soil parameters by using remote sensing and Geographical Information System (GIS) techniques for arriving at potential areas for oil palm cultivation in India. Oil palm cultivation does not adversely affect the water availability, as it requires less water compared to that crops like banana, sugarcane and paddy.

(b): Oil palm cultivation is recommended strictly on non-forest lands and agricultural lands by replacing or initially inter-cropping with low-value crops. Since Oil palm is not being promoted in forest areas, concerns related to biodiversity loss are mitigated. As reported by ICAR, oil palm cultivation contributes to increasing green cover and enhancing carbon sequestration.

(c): Agriculture is a state subject. Specific data on the number of farmers discontinuing oil palm farming in NER and Andaman and Nicobar Islands is not centrally maintained. However, some common challenges in cultivation of oil palm on farmer fields is longer gestation period, competing crops etc.

Under National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP), several measures have been introduced to address the challenges including substantial financial assistance for intercropping and inputs during gestation years, establishment of seed gardens, and provision of viability gap, funding for establishment of mills and assured buy-back of produce by industry partners.

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