

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1409
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26/07/2016

ALTERNATIVE CROPS FOR TOBACCO

1409. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched a pilot project on ‘Alternative crops to tobacco in different Agro-Ecological Zones in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI), to identify alternatives to tobacco farming;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the crops which have been identified as alternatives to tobacco in various Agro-Ecological zones;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any measures to motivate tobacco farmers to grow alternative crops;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including awareness campaigns and financial assistance being offered by the Government to enable this transition without adversely affecting the livelihoods of the tobacco farmers; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

- (a) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India had sanctioned a pilot project entitled “Alternative Crops to **Bidi** and **Chewing Tobacco** in different Agro-Ecological Sub-Regions” to ICAR-Central Tobacco Research Institute for the period 2008-2011.

.....2/-

(b) The following alternative crops/cropping system found remunerative in different Agro-Ecological Zones:-

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Tamil Nadu | 1. Annual moringa + Chilli
2. Annual moringa + Onion
3. Maize – Sunflower |
| 2. West Bengal | 1. Potato
2. Maize
3. Wheat
4. Mustard |
| 3. Karnataka | 1. Sugarcane (irrigated conditions)
2. Soybean – Sorghum
3. Groundnut – Sorghum |
| 4. Andhra Pradesh | 1. Maize – Sunflower
2. Maize – Blackgram
3. Maize – Chickpea |
| 5. Gujarat | 1. Castor (K-R)-Pearlmillet (S)
2. Cotton (K-R)-Groundnut (S)
3. Pearlmillet (K) – Rajma (R) – Pearlmillet (S) |

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) & State Department of Agriculture are promoting the identified alternative crops for Agro-Ecological Zones under various schemes.

(d) Different stakeholders are being sensitized under the various extension programmes like Kisan Goshthi, Kisan Mela, Farmers Day etc. A National Seminar on Crops Diversification was also organized at ICAR-CTRI, Rajahmundry.

(e) Not Applicable.
