

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1645
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2005
POLICY FOR SHIFTING CULTIVATION IN NORTH EASTERN REGION
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE 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 land less ethnic tribals, especially those in the hills in the North Eastern Region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for promoting such cultivation under the Tenth Five Year Plan, indicating the projects and targets contemplated thereunder?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): The National Agriculture Policy finalized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India in the Year 2000 provides that, 'Areas of shifting cultivation will also receive particular attention for their sustainable development'.

The Government of India is implementing a Scheme of Watershed Development Project in shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) for stabilization of hill slope and economic upliftment of jhumia families in the seven North Eastern States viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. The Scheme provides for community involvement in planning, execution and post project management. Adequate emphasis has been given for livelihood support, in addition to land development, through land based/household production activities. The year-wise target and achievement under the scheme are given below:

Year	Target	Achievement		
	Physical (ha.)	Financial (crore)	Physical (ha.)	Financial (crore)
2002-03	20,000	20.00	19,336	19.67
2003-04	20,000	20.00	20,082	21.21
2004-05	20,000	20.00	20,000#	20.00#
20056	30,000	30.00		

(#Anticipated)