

18. One estimate places the figure of shifting cultivators in India at two to three million occurring in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Orissa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala. Please mention whether it is a feature in your state also.

*There is no shifting cultivation in A&N Islands.*

19. Please state (a) the total area under shifting cultivation (b) the total number of ST families engaged therein, giving ITDP/ITDA wise break up.

*Not applicable.*

20. What agricultural and horticultural crops have been and are being grown in shifting cultivation areas? Are agriculture inputs used for these crops?

*Not applicable.*

21. How does crop-to-crop productivity in shifting cultivation areas compare with that in the plain areas?

*Not applicable.*

22. In your assessment, is shifting cultivation an indispensable or essential component of tribal economy, as is sometimes felt? if so, please elaborate on its role in the economy of the tribal household, if not please explain why not and how alternatives can replace it.

*Not applicable.*

23. Has any independent evaluation of shifting cultivation been done? If so, please give in summary form the findings contained in the evaluation reports.

*Not applicable.*

24. What is the view of the State Govt. concerning shifting cultivation? Does it consider it harmful for ecology? If so, what steps have been taken to curtail it? Have any schemes for alternative occupation of the shifting cultivation families been drawn up and implemented? Please give details.

*Not applicable.*

25. Accordingly to the National Forest Policy Resolution 1988, alternative avenues of income, suitably harmonized with the right land-use practices, should be devised to discourage shifting cultivation. Efforts should be made to contain such cultivation within the area already affected, by propagating improved agricultural practices, while the area already damaged should be rehabilitate through social forestry and energy plantations. What steps have the State Government taken in the matter? Please furnish reply with details.