

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2758

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2002

PRODUCTION OF BIO DIESEL

CHANDRA NATH SINGH;CHANDRAKANT BHURAO KHAIRE;DAGGUBATI RAMANAIDU;NVEDITA MANE;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

**Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether his Ministry has set up a Joint Working Group with the Indian Railways to plant sapplings on the vacant land along the rail lines in order to produce bio-diesel from the seeds of plants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether bio-diesel so produced is likely to be cost-effective and environment friendly;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the time by which bio-diesel is likely to be introduced in the country; and
- (f) the progress of the R&D studies conducted in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS' PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

- (a)& (b) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Indian Railways have set up a task force to look into the possibility of taking up a model plantation project on the surplus railway land. To begin with it is proposed to plant *Jatropha curcus* on about 500 hectares of land.
- (c)&(d) Bio-diesel produced for pilot study may not be cost effective vis-À -vis diesel as this project will not have the benefit of economy of scale. Bio-diesel is environment friendly as it has zero sulphur and no aromatics. In addition, there is reduction in the emission of carbon-mono-oxide.
- (e) Government have not taken any decision in this regard.
- (f) R&D studies have indicated that bio-diesel enhances lubricity of diesel and the blended fuel is environment friendly.