

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2460
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2003
HYDROGEN AS ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF FUEL
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Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Planning Commission has undertaken a study on Hydrogen energy as an alternative source of fuel;
- (b) if so, the details of reference made to the study group;
- (c) whether the hydrogen potential in the country has been assessed; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN)

- (a): Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has constituted a Group on Hydrogen Energy in July 2003, to study the prospects of hydrogen energy as an alternative fuel.
- (b): The terms of reference of the Group include examining steps for accelerating progress and compressing the time frame for commercial viability of specific hydrogen energy applications; suggesting areas of comparative advantage for India among the various end-uses of hydrogen; and suggesting measures for research and commercial collaboration with recognized and established international work in this sector.
- (c) & (d): Hydrogen is available in abundance in a combined form and not as an independent gas in the atmosphere. Hydrogen can be produced from water, biomass and hydrocarbons, etc. Hydrogen energy has the potential of providing a safe, clean and non-polluting alternative to fossil fuels. A comprehensive R&D programme on hydrogen energy is being implemented in the country, with the support of the Government, on different aspects of hydrogen, including its production, storage and applications. Hydrogen energy and its utilization are in the development and demonstration stage.