

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1458

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2006

PRODUCTION OF BIO DIESEL

Mohale Shri Punnulal;Renge Patil Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the production of bio-diesel in the country, during the last three years;
- (b) whether bio-diesel is cheap and non polluting;
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of Bio-diesel;
- (d) whether some people have protested against the production of Bio-diesel;
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the nature of protest thereon;
- (f) whether the Government has received proposals from the State Governments for setting up Bio-diesel Plants in the States; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR)

- (a): Bio-diesel is not being produced on commercial scale in India.
- (b) & (c) : Bio-diesel is an environment friendly fuel. Studies conducted with bio-diesel on engines have shown reduction in particulate matter, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide emissions. A National Mission on Bio-diesel has been taken up by the Ministry of Rural Development with focus on large scale plantation of *Jatropha curcas* (Ratanjot) on 4 lakh hectare of forest and non-forest waste lands. The Deptt. of Bio-Technology have initiated a micro-mission programme on production and demonstration of superior quality planting material of *Jatropha*. The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas had announced a Bio-diesel Purchase Policy in October, 2005, which has come into effect from 1st January, 2006. As per this Policy, Oil Marketing Companies shall purchase bio-diesel at Rs.25 per liter from the bio-diesel suppliers.
- (d) & (e): No protest against the production of bio-diesel has been received by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.
- (f) & (g): The Ministry for Rural Development have received proposals from State Governments under the demonstration project of the National Mission on Bio-diesel. Based on these proposals, the Ministry of Rural Development have released Rs.49 crore to nine States, namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Tripura, Tamil Nadu & Rajasthan for raising *Jatropha* seedlings in the nurseries.