

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2988  
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2005  
DEVELOPMENT OF BIO DIESEL  
Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether any action has been initiated by the Government on the development of bio-diesel derived from Jatropha seeds;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) The quantum of alternate fuel estimated to be produced every year;
- (d) The details of public sector oil companies keen to promote Jatropha cultivation through subsidies and loans; and
- (e) The status of trials being carried out on the herbal-fuel invented by Nagpur based scientist couple two years back?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (Smt. SURYAKANTA PATIL)

(a) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Development is coordinating the operationalization of the recommendations of the Planning Commission's Report on Bio-Fuel. In this connection, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been submitted to the Planning Commission for approval. Since Jatropha is a new plant being introduced in the country for production of bio-diesel, the programme is proposed to be taken up initially as a Demonstration Project on 4 lakh hectares of wastelands including 2 lakh hectares degraded forest lands and 2 lakh hectares non-forest wastelands. If this Demonstration Project proves successful, Jatropha cultivation is proposed to be taken up on a commercial scale at a later date. Therefore, quantum of alternate fuel to be produced annually cannot be estimated at this stage. As of now, public sector oil companies are prepared to purchase any amount of bio-diesel from the market at a price equivalent to the ex-depot diesel price.

(e) This ministry is not in receipt of any report on the work done by the Nagpur based scientist couple on herbal fuel.