

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3293

ANSWERED ON:19.08.2004

USE OF BIO-DIESEL IN TRAINS

Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan;Varma Shri Ratilal Kalidas

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any test has been conducted for use of bio-diesel as fuel in trains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the Railway authorities expect to run trains by bio-diesel;
- (c) whether the Government is also aware that thousands of trees have been planted along the Railway lines for production of bio-diesel in Kharagpur in West Bengal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government intend to plant these trees to facilitate production of bio-diesel in other States of the country including Gujarat; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU)

(a)&(b) Preliminary studies, including field trials, have been done for running diesel locomotives on bio-diesel. As and when bio-diesel becomes freely available commercially, detailed planning will be undertaken to exploit this fuel as a regular option. However, as a pilot project the Railways have a Memorandum of understanding with a petroleum company to promote plantations on Railway land that would yield the required product for various blends.

(c)&(d) Yes, Sir. Railway has planted 24,000 Jatropha Curcas upto July 2004.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) A target of planting 57 lakhs of Jatropha Curcas sapling through departmental effort has been fixed for the current year 2004-05.