

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3385
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2006
STUDY ON BIO FUEL
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any study regarding bio-fuel;
- (b) if so, the findings thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to undertake bio-fuel projects in the interest of rural people, particularly farmers; and
- (d) if so the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR)

(a) & (b): The Planning Commission had set up a Committee on Development of Bio-fuels in July, 2002. The Committee submitted its Report to the Planning Commission in April, 2003. The main recommendations in the Report include launching of a National Mission on Bio-diesel with special focus on plantation of *Jatropha curcas* on forest and non-forest waste lands. The Ministry of Rural Development was made as the Nodal Ministry in July, 2003 for launching the National Mission on Bio-diesel.

(c) & (d): The Ministry of Rural Development have taken up a National Mission on Bio-diesel with focus on large scale plantation of *Jatropha curcas* and *Pongamia pinnata* on forest and non-forest waste lands. The plantations would be taken up essentially on degraded forest lands and wastelands belonging to the village communities/panchayats/government as well as unutilized marginal lands belonging to the marginal and small farmers as a means of providing them supplementary livelihood opportunities. Under this National Mission, the Ministry of Rural Development has processed the proposal for demonstration of *Jatropha* and *Pongamia* in 3 lakh hectares of land with the Expenditure Finance Committee of the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Rural Development have provided financial assistance of Rs.49 crores to nine States for raising *Jatropha* nurseries.