

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:529

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2005

CULTIVATION OF JATROPHA

Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy;Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .;Sippiparai Shri A. Ravichandran

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a Committee to promote the cultivation of jatropha and other trees used for the production of bio-diesel;
- (b) if so, the details of terms of reference thereof;
- (c) the time by which the Committee is likely to be constituted; and
- (d) the steps taken to promote the cultivation of jatropha and for the utilization of bio-diesel as an alternative to petrol/diesel ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (A. NARENDRA)

(a) to (c) The Committee set up by the Planning Commission on the Development of Bio-fuel has submitted its Report in April 2003. The Committee recommended launching of a National Mission on Bio-Diesel with special focus on the plantation of Jatropha, the seed of which forms the feedstock for production of bio-diesel. The Ministry of Rural Development has been identified as the nodal ministry for launching the National Mission. For this purpose, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) was submitted for the 'in-principle approval' of the Planning Commission.

(d) The DPR proposed a Demonstration Project for promotion of Jatropha cultivation in forest and non-forest areas (2.00 lakh ha non-forest lands and 2.00 lakh ha forest lands), especially in wastelands, over a period of 5 years. For utilization of bio-diesel, the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has announced a Bio-Diesel Purchase Policy on 9th October 2005. Under this policy, with effect from 1.1.2006, the public sector oil marketing companies will purchase bio-diesel at a uniform price of Rs.25 per litre, which meets the fuel quality standard prescribed by the Bureau of Industrial Standards (BIS) specification formulated vide PCD3(2242)C dated 26.7.2004. The uniform price once fixed shall be in operation for six months, at the end of which it would be reviewed.