

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:580

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2007

JATROPHA PLANTATION

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched any campaign to grow Jatropha for manufacturing of bio-diesel;
- (b) if so, the details of research programmes being run to make available good quality seeds of Jatropha;
- (c) the progress made towards fixation of norms and providing information to the people for farming of Jatropha;
- (d) the targets fixed, if any, for plantation of Jatropha;
- (e) whether any time limit has been proposed for achieving the targets; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development has been nominated as the nodal ministry to launch the National Mission on Bio-diesel under which Jatropha curcus has been identified as the major source of bio-diesel.

(b) The NOVOD Board, Ministry of Agriculture has initiated a network of 37 R & D institutions of Indian Council of Agricultural research (ICAR), Council for Scientific & Industrial research (CSIR), Indian Council of Forest Research & Education (ICFRE) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) which identified a total of 1855 superior planting material (Candidate Plus Trees) of Jatropha. These CPTs are in multilocational, national, zonal and progeny trials for their evolution. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is also involved in developing an efficient protocol for multiplication of Jatropha through tissue culture.

(c) to (f) The proposed National Mission on Bio-diesel is to be implemented in two phases i.e. Phase I as a demonstration project over a period of five years followed by Phase II, which would be a self-sustaining expansion of the bio-diesel programme. Under the demonstration phase, it is proposed to cover 5 lakh hectares of public wastelands (government/panchayat/community wastelands) under Jatropha and other bio-fuel plants like pongamia. After successful completion of the demonstration phase, the programme would be extended to the private domain also and all relevant norms and guidelines for private participation would be formulated at that time.