

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1141
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2008
PRODUCTION OF BIO DIESEL
Jain Shri Pusp

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether bio-diesel has been produced from Jatropha experimentally;
- (b) if so, the total quantity produced as yet;
- (c) whether oil companies are not willing to purchase diesel produced from Jatropha;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to promote bio-diesel?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b) Bio-diesel has been produced experimentally in several States both by private and government agencies. For instance, the Chhattisgarh Biofuel Development Authority has produced 17,020 litres of bio-diesel in 2007-08 and the Uttarakhand Biofuel Board has produced about 200 litres for experimental purposes.

(c) & (d) No Sir. The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, in consultation with the oil marketing companies, has identified 20 bio-diesel purchase centres in 12 States.

(e) The Ministry of Rural Development has proposed to launch a Demonstration Project to establish the technical and commercial viability of bio-diesel plants like jatropha and pongamia and to consolidate necessary scientific data base in all aspects of growing bio- diesel plantations, oil processing and marketing. Towards this direction, the Ministry has provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs.49.00 crore in 2005-06 and Rs.49.50 crore in 2006-07 to identified States for the purpose of raising jatropha/pongamia saplings in nurseries.