

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:195

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008

CULTIVATION OF JATROPHA PONGAMIA ETC

Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment to find out the impact of large scale cultivation of crops like Jatropha curcas, Pongamia etc. being used for bio-diesel on environment;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to check the adverse impact of cultivation of such crops on environment?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 196 BY SHRI MAGUMITA SREENIVASULU REDDY AND KISHANBHAI V. PATEL REGARDING 'CULTIVATION OF JATROPHA, PONGAMIA ETC. DUE FOR REPLY ON 12.03.2008.

(a) to (c) The Government of India has not made any assessment, however it has identified Jatropha curcas and Pongamia pinnata for plantation on degraded land as the most suitable Tree Borne Oilseed for production of bio-diesel in view of its ability to thrive under a variety of agro-climatic conditions under National Mission on bio-diesel through a consultation process involving farmers, Non Governmental Organizations, Automobile manufacturers, State Governments and Central Government Departments.

(d) The Government of India has issued direction to the State/UT Governments for plantation of Jatropha curcas on degraded forest land without felling of trees. Pongamia pinnata is a forestry species and its plantation is based on soil and climatic conditions of the respective forest area.