

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1250  
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2009  
PRODUCTION OF FUEL FROM ALGAE  
Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre

**Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:**

- (a): whether Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is planning to produce fuel from algae in collaboration with US firm;
- (b): if so, the details thereof; and
- (c): the time by which it is likely to start fuel production and encourage farmers to cultivate algae?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir,, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a Florida, USA based specialist algae company, M/s Petroalgae, which has developed superior algae strains and also a technology for extraction of oils. This collaboration shall be effective in two phases:-

- (1) In the first phase, the algal strains supplied by M/s Petroalgae shall be grown in Indian conditions and their growth parameters will be monitored in the laboratory.
- (2) Thereafter, the chosen algal strains will be scaled up at Research & Development Center of IOC. This phase will establish the preliminary cost economics and commercial viability.

Commercialization of algae if successful in preliminary stages will take about 5 to 7 years.