

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1391
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2010
PRODUCTION OF BIO-DIESEL
Singh Shri Jagada Nand

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether alternative fuels like ethanol and bio-diesel have a number of advantages over the conventional fuels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the percentage of bio-diesel production in comparison to total consumption of bio-diesel in the country at present;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take steps to promote community participation and entrepreneurship through greater participation of local institutions included in the process of bio-fuel development;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to constitute a National Bio- fuel Development Board; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recent initiatives, research and development and other measures taken by the Government for the production and promotion of bio-fuels on a large scale?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH)

(a) & (b): Ethanol and Biodiesel are alternate fuels derived from locally available biomass feedstocks and hence provide a greater degree of energy security and employment while stimulating rural development. Biodiesel and ethanol are less polluting on account of lower emissions and have potential to reduce foreign exchange out go on import of fossil fuels. Biodiesel is currently not being produced commercially for blending with diesel.

(c) & (d): Cultivators, farmers, landless labourers, cooperatives, Self Help Groups, Gram Panchayats, Gram Sabhas, etc. will be involved in undertaking plantations that provide the feedstock for biodiesel and ethanol. Local communities and entrepreneurs will be involved in local production and processing of biodiesel, apart from State Agencies and Oil Marketing Companies.

(e) & (f): There is no proposal to constitute a National Bio-fuel Development Board. However, the setting up of a high level National Biofuel Coordination Committee has been approved.

Intensive R&D work has been initiated on development of superior genotypes of Jatropha having high seed productivity and oil content for production of bio-diesel. Efforts have also been initiated to develop coordinated R&D projects on second generation biofuels such as production of ethanol from agricultural wastes / residues and biodiesel from algae.