

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:17  
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2010  
BIO-DIESEL PROGRAMME  
Saroj Smt. Sushila

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of bio-diesel programme launched by the Government alongwith progress made so far thereon;
- (b) whether the Government has made any recommendation for imposing some conditions on the project;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the progress made thereafter;
- (d) whether the Government has made any study to assess the positive and negative impact of bio-diesel plants on food security and agriculture land; and
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI)

(a) A National Policy on Biofuels which primarily includes Bio-ethanol and Bio-diesel was announced in December, 2009 by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The Policy aims at bringing about accelerated development and promotion of the cultivation, production and use of biofuels to increasingly substitute petrol and diesel for transport and be used in stationary applications. MNRE has sanctioned a demonstration projects of 20 ha. each to 5 states in March, 2010 (TamilNadu, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan) to study the suitability and productivity of selected promising genotypes of Jatropha. National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board has undertaken the model plantations of Jatropha and Karanja as sources of bio-fuel on government and institutional land over an area of 13132 ha. and 2219 ha. respectively so far through government & semi- government organizations. Ministry of Rural Development has not launched Bio-diesel programme so far.

(b) & (c) No such recommendation has been made by the Ministry.

(d) & (e) Ministry of Rural Development has not made any study in this regard. However, as per National Policy on Biofuels, only non-food feed stocks will be raised on degraded or wastelands that are not suited for agriculture, thus avoiding a possible conflict of fuel vs. food security.