

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3619
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2010
CULTIVATION OF NON EDIBLE OIL SEEDS
Sinh Dr. Sanjay

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has held any talk with the allied Departments/Ministries like Rural Development and Renewable Energy for promotion and cultivation of non-edible oil seeds for production of bio-fuel in the country:
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and
- (c) the extent to which the use/productions of bio-fuel in the country will lessen the import of petroleum products?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI)

(a) & (b) Union Government vide notification dated 12th July, 2006 allocated specific responsibilities under the allocation of Business Rules to the concerned Ministries/Department to deal with the subject of Bio-fuel. Such Ministries/Departments include Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Environment and Forest, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Department of Land Resources in Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Bio-technology. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has been assigned overall coordination concerning bio-fuels. The Ministries/Departments have been interacting to discuss various issues relating to bio-fuels. National Policy on Bio-fuel announced in June, 2010 by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy entails plantation of trees bearing non-edible oil seeds on government/community wastelands degraded or fallow land in forest and non-forest areas. According to the Policy, plantations on agricultural land will be discouraged. Ministry of Rural Development had proposed for a Demonstration Phase of National Mission on bio-diesel based on Jatropha and Pongamia plants and while formulating the proposal, organizations consulted include ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Forests, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Panchayati Raj, New and Renewable Energy, Small-scale Industries, departments of Revenue, Expenditure, Science and Technology, Bio-technology and Rural Development and Railway Board/ Planning Commission, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and NABARD. Cabinet has approved the Demonstration Phase of National Mission on Bio-diesel subject to the condition that it can be taken up only after an assessment is carried out for plantation work already undertaken in the country and positive feedback received. Accordingly the Ministry has invited Expression of Interest (EOI) from government organizations and reputed research and academic institutions to conduct the assessment study of the plantation work already undertaken in the country.

(c) According to the Report of the Working Group on Petroleum & Natural Gas for 11th Plan, the demand of petrol has been estimated at 14.55 MMT and diesel at 61.89 MMT in 2016-17. National Policy on Bio-fuels proposes indicative target of 20% blending of bio-fuels, both for bio-diesel and bio-ethanol by 2017. Import of petroleum products will depend upon the extent of its demand and production of bio-fuel in the country.