

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5194

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2010

BIO-DIESEL FROM JATROPHA

Mahto Shri Baidyanath Prasad;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

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

(a) whether the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation has warned the developing countries of the world against the use of Jatropha for producing bio-diesel;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has taken a decision to conduct a study in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b): A Report on "Jatropha: A Smallholder Bioenergy Crop-The Potential for Pro-Poor Development" has been prepared by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations(FAO),based on the International Consultation on Pro-Poor Jatropha Development held in April, 2008, in Rome, Italy.

It has have been emphasized in the Report that Jatropha biofuel production could be especially beneficial to the poor producers, particularly in semi-arid and remote areas. The main pro-poor potential of jatropha is based on a strategy for the reclamation of degraded farmland along with local processing and utilization of the oil and by-product . Jatropha oil can also be used to power suitably adapted diesel engines and to provide light and heat for cooking. The Reports calls for research in genetic improvement and agronomy towards improvement of oil yield if its potential as a transportation fuel and substitute of oil imports is to be met.

(c)&(d): Intensive R&D work has been initiated by the Scientific Agencies to develop quality planting material of Jatropha, particularly in terms of high seed oil content and seed productivity. A Working Group of Scientists have identified promising genotypes/accessions of Jatropha from a number of Jatropha accessions screened by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research ICSIR), Department of Bio-Technology (DBT) and Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO). As an extension of these R&D efforts, demonstration projects have been sanctioned to four States to assess the suitability and productivity of certain promising genotypes of Jatropha under different agro-climatic conditions. As per the provisions of the National Policy on Biofuels, a Sub-Committee on R&D in Biofuels have been constituted to identify gaps and priorities in the R&D sector and to develop and Roadmap and Strategy for R&D efforts to meet the goals and targets of the National Policy on Biofuel.