

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4385
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2011
PLANTATION OF PUNGAN AND PUNNAI TREES
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pungan and Punnai trees are largely grown in Tamil Nadu, which are the richest source of bio-diesel;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to encourage the farmers to grow huge quantities of Pungan and Punnai trees in unused space to generate more quantities of bio-diesel and to reduce the dependence on imported oil; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (d): Under the Central Sector Scheme, "Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds", plantation of all tree borne oilseeds including pungan i.e. Pongamia pinnata (karanj) on Government waste lands in the country including Tamil Nadu is promoted. Plantation of Pungan trees were made over an area of 35.5 ha. in Tamil Nadu through Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) and State Department of Forest, Government of Tamil Nadu. Under the Scheme, in order to disseminate the technical know how on agricultural practices, marketing, uses of tree borne oilseeds, value addition etc. training programmes are conducted for farmers & trainers to encourage the farmers for growing the plants of tree borne oilseeds. In all, 5 farmer's trainings and 4 trainers' trainings for field functionaries have been organized in Tamil Nadu through implementing agencies by the Board.