

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4316  
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2011  
BIO-FUEL CROPS  
Hazari Shri Maheshwar ;Verma Smt. Usha

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is a fact that farmers are now growing bio-fuel crops in place of foodgrain crops;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether foodgrains are being used to make bio-fuel;
- (d) if so, whether 30 per cent of the agricultural land in the country is being used for growing bio-fuel crops; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

- (a): No, Madam. The National Policy on Bio-fuels does not support diversion of agricultural land under foodgrains for production of bio-fuels.
- (b): Question does not arise.
- (c) to (e): The National Policy on Bio-fuels clearly indicates that for development of bio-fuels in India focus is on utilization of only waste and degraded forest and non- forest lands for cultivation of shrubs and trees bearing non-edible oil seeds for production of biodiesel. Further, in India, bio-ethanol is mainly produced from molasses, a by-product of the sugar industry. Also, for future too, the emphasis is on next generation of technologies based on non-food feedstocks.