

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:489

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2011

RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION OF BIO DEGRADABLE PLASTIC

Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated any measure to promote the research and production of bio-degradable plastic; and

(b) if so, the progress of the development of technology and commercial production of such plastic?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) & (b) The Petrochemical sector including polymer/plastic industry is de-licensed and decontrolled. The Government is not engaged in the production of plastics including bio-degradable plastics.

The National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune - a CSIR Laboratory has been working on the development of bio-degradable Polylactic Acid (PLA), one of the known basic raw materials for bio-degradable plastics. The development work is still in the laboratory/pilot stage. The technology for the manufacturer of bio-degradable plastics is limited to only few manufacturers in the world, which is based on either natural plant polymers derived from wheat or corn starch (PLA based) or synthesized from chemical means.