

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2750
ANSWERED ON:29.03.2012
STATUS OF BIO-DIESEL RESEARCH
Tanwar Shri Ashok

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of Bio-diesel research in the country;
- (b) whether the same is likely to be introduced in the open market in near future;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has signed any technological agreements or Memoranda of Understandings with other leading Bio-diesel manufacturing countries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR EARTH SCIENCES (ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) Research on Biodiesel production is being supported by different Ministries /Departments – Department of Biotechnology, Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Defence Research Development Organization, Indian Council of Agriculture Research, National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Systematic programs on germplasm collection, evaluation and accessioning programme to identify superior material from existing natural variations have been supported.

Institutions have worked on aspects from survey of superior material to experimental plantation and germplasms has been collected from across the country. These collected germplasms have been characterized morphologically, chemically and genetically, out of which 890 germplasms have been accessioned in National Register at NBPGR. 500 accessions have been found promising on the basis of percentage oil and tolerance to local conditions. More than 7.00 lakh plants have been produced over 316.63 ha at 148 sites which cover diverse agro climatic conditions of the country. Multilocation trials of 20 promising accessions was initiated in 2007 to study the effect of set agronomy practices, soil and agro-climatic conditions on performance of accessions at with 9 partner institutes. In addition to agronomy trials, 100 accessions are also being tested for silvicultural trial along with agro climatic performances. Micro-propagation protocol for mass multiplication; standardized. R& D projects on Development of feedstock namely Jatropha and production of Biodiesel have been supported.

(b) & (c) As reported by Biodiesel Association of India, biodiesel production facility with an aggregate capacity of 3470 tonnes per day have been set up by private companies in the country. However, no biodiesel has so far been procured by Oil Marketing Companies for blending with diesel."

(d) & (e) No, Sir.