

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3742
ANSWERED ON:04.09.2012
CULTIVATION OF JATROPHA
Annayagari Shri Sai Prathap

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether inspite of the Government's committed efforts in cultivation of Jatropha bio-diesel plants, there are still hurdles in the desired momentum its plantation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the companies embarked on cultivation of jatropha are also facing money hurdles; and
- (d) if so, the corrective steps being taken by the Government to remove all hurdles and speed up the production of bio-diesel plants?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): According to the survey by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to assess the status of Jatropha plantations existing in nine states of the country, 9.28 lakh ha. has been cultivated with Jatropha upto July, 2009. It was found that the mortality was high, scientific methods of cultivation and maintenance practices were rarely followed and the resultant seed yields were very low.

(c) & (d): Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing Research and Development programmes on Jatropha plant through institutions belonging to Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Council of Forest Research Institute (ICFRI) and Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs) on survey and collection of superior planting material (seeds & cuttings), progeny trial of superior planting material and multi-location trials, agri-silvicultural trials, standardization of propagation techniques and development of package of practices.

In addition, the Department of Biotechnology has initiated the systematic programme on germplasm collection, evaluation and accessioning programme to identify superior material from existing natural variations. Research and Development is also undertaken for development of elite planting material and large scale multi-location trials for developing appropriate planting material based improved genotypes and horticultural practices.