

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2576
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012
PRODUCTION OF FOREST PRODUCTS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the forest produces like Moha, Karanji are being used as alcohol in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to produce petroleum products from Moha and Karanji in view of their availability in ample quantity in forests of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN):

(a) & (b) There is no report regarding production of alcohol from Karanji in the country. However, Mahua is known to be occasionally used by certain tribes to produce liquor at household level.

(c) to (e) There is no specific programme for cultivation of plants for production of biodiesel in Ministry. An advisory was issued on 22-7-2003 under NAP scheme to take up 10% of project area for plantation of Jatropha species, only on highly degraded area devoid of vegetation (with less than 10% tree cover). As per the clarification issued on 5th September 2005, it is stated that Plantation of oil-bearing plants on forest land is a non-forestry activity to be regulated under the provision of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However, if the oil-bearing plant is indigenous to the area in question and its plantation is part of the overall afforestation programme for the forest area concerned prior approval of the Central Government under the Act is not required.