

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5662

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2013

PLANTATION OF JATROPHA

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plantation of jatropha, the bio-diesel plant, has not yielded the desired results in spite of the efforts made by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective steps being taken by the Union Government to encourage the plantation of jatropha?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. It has been found that the mortality of the plant is high, scientific methods of cultivation and maintenance practices are rarely followed by the farmers and the resultant seed yields are very low. Non-availability of high yielding varieties and hybrids varieties in wasteland conditions is also one of the reasons.

(c): 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 materials 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 a programme on the systematic 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 on improved genotypes and horticultural practices.