

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:669
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2015
BLENDING OF ETHANOL AND BIO DIESEL
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken for capacity building to facilitate the 20 % ethanol and bio-diesel blending mandate by 2017;
- (b) the quantity of bio-diesel produced in India in a year; and
- (c) the estimated requirement post 2017?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR POWER, COAL & NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): For enhancing the production of biofuels i.e. bioethanol and biodiesel, research and development (R&D) is being supported for production of bioethanol from ligno-cellulosic biomass and for improving the yields of Tree Borne Oilseeds (TBOs) for production of biodiesel. Ministry of Agriculture has initiated the National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm from the year 2014-15 for promoting plantation of TBOs including Jatropha and Karanja which can be used for extraction of biodiesel. Department of Biotechnology has been supporting R&D to develop the quality planting material and have supported the Jatropha Network Program, under which germplasm of Jatropha was collected, selected, screened, characterized and evaluated to improve the genetic material available in the country. Besides, a number of R&D projects have been initiated with focus on improvement of oil quality and yield, identifying important novel genes involved in oil biosynthetic pathway, identification of elite varieties using molecular markers, etc. Studies on biotechnological interventions are also being supported through Algal Network Program for selection of promising strains for biomass production as alternate feedstock for biodiesel production.

(b): The average production of biodiesel in the country is reported to be about 52000 tonnes per year.

(c): No estimate has so far been made about post 2017 requirement of bio-diesel.