

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6100
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2015
BIOFUEL POLICY INITIATIVES
Vellaigounder Shri Elumalai

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the biofuel policy initiatives have not been translated into results;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is a need to update the biofuel policy regularly with latest trends, techniques, economic and legal aspect; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): In order to promote and use biofuels, a National Policy on Biofuels has been brought out. For enhancing the production of biofuels numerous activities are being taken up by various Ministries including Ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Forests & Climate Change, Rural Development, Science and Technology, and New and Renewable Energy. 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 Programme under which germ-plasm of Jatropha was collected, selected, screened, characterized and evaluated to improve the genetic material available in the country. Besides, above activities, a number of R&D projects have been supported by Ministry of Science and Technology, and New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

(c)&(d): Yes, Madam. MNRE is playing a key role in policy updation in conjunction with other involved Ministries for working on the suggestion / inputs from such Ministries on the issues being raised by them in implementing the contents of the policy. These matters are periodically discussed in Working Group meetings involving representatives of these Ministries and other stake holders. The points raised and accepted by the Working Group are then taken up in the Biofuels Steering Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary for possible updation.