

Walnut Production

3125. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to increase the walnut production in the country;

(b) whether new technique is proposed to be introduced to improve walnut production; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Vegetative propagation has been recommended for improving the productivity of walnut. For this purpose, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have identified cultivars which are available indigenously. Exotic cultivars available from United States of America, Canada, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Japan, Former USSR and Manchuria also been introduced.

[Translation]

Biogas Plants

3126. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that required number of biogas plants have not been set up under the ongoing biogas programme since inception;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a number of biogas plants are non-functional;

(d) if so, the details, State-wise; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to launch certain modern technique in place of biogas plants to achieve the desired results in the field of non-conventional energy sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. A total of about 27.12 lakh family type and about 2360 community, institutional and night-soil based biogas plants have been set up in the country under the Central Sector Schemes, namely, National

Project on Biogas Development and Community, Institutional and Night-soil based Biogas Plants Programme respectively, since inception. The main reasons determining the size of these programmes are availability of budgetary support and priority given by State Governments.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The study on "Evaluation Survey of Household Biogas Plants set up during 1992-93 to 1994-95" carried out by an independent agency, namely, National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi in 18 States in the year 1996 indicates that on an overall basis about 87.4 per cent of the plants surveyed were found functional. In case of community, institutional and night-soil based biogas plants set up during 1992-93 to 1997-98, the reports received in June 1998 from major States indicate that about 78 per cent plants were functioning satisfactorily. Information on percentage of non-functional plant for major States is given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) In addition to promoting traditional biogas technology and improved chulha devices, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is already implementing several programmes relating to modern techniques, such as biomass gasifiers, solar water heating systems, solar cookers, solar photovoltaic domestic lights and lanterns, solar photovoltaic water pumps, wind mills, small hydro power, etc.

Statement**State-wise percentage of non-functional biogas plants**

State	% age of non-functional plants	
	NCAER's evaluation study on family type plants set up during 1992-93 to 1994-95	State Governments' reports on community, institutional and night-soil based plants set up during 1992-93 to 1997-98
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	9.7	23.8
Assam	11.5	-
Bihar	33.2	-
Gujarat	5.9	51.8
Haryana	10.2	-
Himachal Pradesh	16.2	-