

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5289
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2005
RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES
Baxla Shri Joachim

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is focussing on replacing diesel in agricultural sector with other alternative fuels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made so far in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government is thinking for setting up of new projects for renewable energy sector in West Bengal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON- CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR)

(a) & (b): There is no proposal at present to replace diesel with alternate fuels in the agricultural sector in the medium-term. Alternate fuels, namely, hydrogen, bio fuels and synthetic fuels are still in the development phase. R&D efforts are underway to align the characteristics and cost of bio-fuels to those of diesel. In this connection, some test projects on village energy security that aim to meet the entire energy needs of cooking, lighting and motive powers of a village through renewables, notably biomass and bio-fuels are being implemented. Successful completion of the test projects will pave the way for a programme covering remote villages, i.e., where grid extension is neither cost-effective nor feasible, in the first instance.

(c), (d) & (e): This Ministry provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for the setting up of renewable energy projects, the proposals for which are received, among others, from state governments, including West Bengal, in keeping with the terms and conditions of its programmes / schemes and subject to availability of funds.