

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1157  
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2006  
DECREASE IN GOBAR GAS PLANTS  
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

ate:

- (a) whether the number of gobar gas plants are decreasing in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the grant given by the Government for the gobar gas projects has been recovered with interest;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the measures undertaken by the Government to give a boost to gobar gas plants in rural areas?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Efforts are continuing to promote more number of biogas (gobar gas) under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme-National Biogas and Manure Management Programme. About 3.8 million family type biogas (gobar gas) plants have been set up with Central subsidy in the rural areas since 1981-82. For 2005-06, the original target of 25,000 plants with the Budget Estimates of Rs.14.00 crore has been revised to install 66,000 plants with proposed Revised Estimates of Rs.28.00 crore.

(c) & (d): As the unspent balances, if any, left with the State Governments and nodal agencies are adjusted during subsequent releases, recovery of grants sanctioned in advance for implementation of the National Biogas and Manure Management Programme, with or without interest, does not arise.

(e): For promoting biogas (gobar gas) plants in rural areas, the Government have undertaken several measures, such as organising training in the operation and maintenance of biogas plants in villages for women users and in flawless construction of plants for masons and technicians at the district level, arranging technical support through State level Biogas Development and Training Centres and organizing extensive publicity through local art-forms, besides providing central subsidy in fixed amounts, turn-key job fee with first three years` free maintenance warranty; one time financial assistance for repair of old non-functional plants, etc.