

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:431

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2006

PLANTATION OF JATROPHA .

Moghe Shri Krishna Murari;Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government is aware that thousands acres of cultivable land is lying useless in the country;
- (b) If so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) Whether the increasing prices of crude oil in the international market has made the Government to rethink on plantation of Jatropha under Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP);
- (d) if so, the area of land identified in each State/Union Territory for plantation of Jatropha;
- (e) The States which have taken lead in the plantation of Jatropha;
- (f) The amount of foreign exchange likely to be saved annually with plantation of Jatropha; and (g) The steps taken/proposed to be taken to encourage the plantation of Jatropha in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (Dr. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement Referred to in Reply to Parts (a) to (g) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.431 Due for Answer on 25.8.2006

(a)&(b) As per the Wastelands Atlas of India-2005, brought out by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad using satellite imagery data, an area of 552.69 lakh hectares in the country is estimated to be wastelands/barren lands. Out of this, 121.17 lakh hectares is unculturable, being barren, rocky, snow-covered etc. Remaining 431.52 lakh hectares is culturable. This includes 304.97 lakh hectares of non-forest culturable waste land and 126.55 lakh hectares of degraded forestland. The State-wise details on the extent of these culturable wastelands are at Annex - I.

(c)&(d) Yes Sir. Keeping in view the increasing prices of crude oil in the international market, meeting the domestic demand for petroleum-diesel partially through bio-diesel route is contemplated. Jatropha has been identified as an important source of bio-diesel. Its plantation can be taken up on non-forest waste lands, degraded forest lands and areas identified for plantation purposes under the existing area development programmes like the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme

(DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme

(IWDP). Out of the 431.52 lakh hectares culturable wastelands, it is estimated that 322.96 lakh hectares would be suitable for plantation of Jatropha. The State-wise area that is potentially available for Jatropha plantations is at Annex - II.

(e) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Uttaranchal, Chattisgarh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have initiated steps to promote Jatropha plantations on their own.

(f) The National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development

(NOVOD) Board, Ministry of Agriculture projected that by the year 2008-09, Jatropha plantations would extend over an area of about 31 lakh hectares. These plantations would produce an estimated 29.14 lakh tonnes bio-diesel (at the rate of 0.94 tonnes per hectare) annually. This level of bio-diesel production in the country would result in a likely saving of foreign exchange equivalent to about Rs.9,500 crore per annum at the current import parity price of diesel in international market of Rs. 27.87/litre of HSD.

(g) The Planning Commission has accorded 'in-principle' approval to launch a National mission on Bio-Diesel by the Ministry of Rural Development. The National Mission is to be implemented in two phases i.e. Phase I as Demonstration Project extending over a period of 5 years and Phase II a self-sustaining expansion of Bio-diesel Programme. In the Demonstration phase about 5 lakh hectares of Jatropha plantations would be taken up in both non-forest wastelands and degraded forest lands.

