

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3726  
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006  
PLANTATION OF KARANJA  
Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has initiated any programme for the plantation of Karanja for the purpose of bio-diesel production in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the details of infrastructure provided by the Government for identification of suitable lands, necessary training to the farmers in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;
- (d) the area of land at present covered under Karanja cultivation;
- (e) whether any assessment has been made regarding prospects of its expansion in near future; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) to (f): National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board, a statutory and autonomous body under the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, has initiated the programme for plantation of Tree Borne Oilseeds including Jatropha and Karanja in various States in the Country including Tamil Nadu for bio-diesel production under the Central Sector Scheme `Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds` during 10th plan. The State-wise detail of plantation of Karanja is given in the Annexure.

There is no provision for setting up of infrastructure for identification of suitable lands and training to farmers in the country under the Scheme. However, the NOVOD Board has organized 62 Farmers training and 20 Trainers` training in the Country including 3 farmers` training and 1 Trainers` training programme in Tamil Nadu to disseminate the technical know-how about package of practices, quality seed collection, oil extraction, marketing etc. of Tree Borne Oilseeds benefiting about 200 field functionaries/seed collectors.

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has not made any assessment of prospects of expansion of area under Karanja cultivation. However, plantation of Jatropha and Karanj in 3 lakh ha. of waste, degraded and marginal lands belonging to public agencies (forest land, department land including road, rail and canal bunds, common lands owned by panchayats etc.) as well as marginal individual private lands, field bunds etc. has been envisaged by the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources under the demonstration Phase of `National Bio-diesel Mission` during 2006-2012.