

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:215
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2005
OIL CONSERVATION
Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Petroleum Conservation and Research Association (PCRA) and other organizations have launched a campaign to propagate the importance of oil conservation among the masses;
- (b) if so, the number of States where this campaign has been launched or is likely to be launched;
- (c) the outcome of this campaign so far and the total expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years and as on date;
- (d) the effective measures taken by the Government to promote the use of bio-diesel and vegetable oil/animal fat mixed fuel for vehicles; and
- (e) the total area of land utilized so far by the Government in the country for manufacturing bio-diesel as on date?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 215 BY SHRI HEMMAL MURMU TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.3.2005 REGARDING OIL CONSERVATION.

(a) to (c) Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) has been actively engaged in creating awareness regarding the importance of oil conservation among consumers through various media, viz., newspapers, magazines, outdoor hoardings and electronic media. PCRA also carries out extensive campaigning during 'Oil and Gas Conservation Fortnight', celebrated during the 2nd fortnight of January every year.

PCRA has been covering the entire country through different media instruments. The total expenditure incurred by PCRA on various activities during the last three years is as follows:-

Year Amount (Rs. in Crores)

2001-02	8.67
2002-03	5.90
2003-04	9.78
2004-05	9.00 (Provisonal)

(d) & (e) Government are promoting a policy of part-substitution of fossil fuels by bio-fuels like bio-diesel, which is made from vegetable oil/fats through trans-esterification. Under instructions from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to the Oil Marketing Companies in the public sector, field trials using bio-diesel and diesel blend in buses are in progress in collaboration with Haryana Roadways and the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST), Mumbai. Field trials and engine tests on locomotives are also in progress. At present however, there is no ready domestic market for bio-diesel in India since bio-diesel based on readily available feed-stocks cost much more than diesel. It is recognized however that if larger availability of bio-diesel can be ensured, commercial use of bio-diesel-blended diesel can be a possibility in future. A commercial beginning has been made in Gujarat in using bio-diesel in the buses of the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation.

The Planning Commission had set up a Committee on Development of Bio-fuel which recommended the launching of a National Mission on Bio-diesel with special focus on the plantation of *Jatropha Curcas*. The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry for the National Mission on Bio-diesel and that Ministry has recently got a Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared by The Energy and Research Institute (TERI). The DPR inter alia envisages plantation of *Jatropha Curcus* over 4 lakh hectares in different States.

