

**Production of bio-diesel from Rattan jot**

†2675. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

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

(a) the names of the States where scheme of making bio-diesel from Rattan jot was introduced;

(b) whether any policy has been formulated for the private investors and if so; the details thereof;

(c) the details of the people who have shown interest in planting Rattan jot plants; State-wise and area of land allotted to them for this purpose; and

(d) the number of companies which have shown interest in preparing bio-diesel from Rattan jot and area of land allotted to them, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) (a) to (d) The Committee set up by the Planning Commission on "Development of Bio-fuel" in April, 2003 has, *inter-alia*, recommended launching of a National Mission on Bio-diesel with special focus on plantation of *Jatropha curcas*. The proposed National Mission is to be implemented in two phases *i.e.* Phase I as Demonstration Project and Phase II a self sustaining expansion of Bio-diesel Programme. For launching of the Demonstration Project of the National Mission on Bio-diesel, the Ministry of Rural Development has been identified as the Nodal Ministry.

Under the demonstration phase, promotion of *Jatropha curcas* cultivation in forest and non forest areas (2.00 lakh ha. non-forest lands and 2.00 lakh ha. forest land) especially in wastelands is proposed to be carried out over a period of five years.

Planning Commission has according in "principle approval" for the Demonstration phase. Planning Commission has also approved the utilization of Rs. 50 Crore available in the budget of 2005-06. The Departmental Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has approved for utilization of Rs. 49 crore for *Jatropha* Nursery Programme. Accordingly, Rs. 49.00 crore has been released to 9 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Tripura, Tamil Nadu & Rajasthan for raising *Jatropha* seedlings in the Nurseries.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.