

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1258
ANSWERED ON 13.02.2023

ETHANOL PRODUCTION IN BIHAR

1258. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

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

- (a) the details of any funds allocated, transferred and utilized for the production of ethanol in the last three years in the State of Bihar;
- (b) the amount of sugarcane used for the production of ethanol in the country and in Bihar in the year 2022-23;
- (c) the amount of water consumed for the production of ethanol in the country and in Bihar in the last three years; and
- (d) the number of farmers who have benefitted from ethanol production in the country and in the State of Bihar in the last three years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)

(a): During the last three years, Rs. 9.32 crores under the Ethanol Interest Subvention Scheme have been released by the Government for 4 projects in Bihar for enhancing distillation capacities.

(b): During first three months of current sugar season 2022-23 (from 1st October to 30th September), about 85 Lakh Metric Ton (LMT) of sugarcane (from the distilleries attached to sugar mills) has been diverted for ethanol production in the country including about 2.5 LMT of sugarcane in Bihar.

(c): As per the Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, water comes under the purview of State Governments. However, the Task Force on sugarcane and sugar industry constituted under the Chairmanship of Member (Agriculture), Niti Aayog, as outlined in the Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India 2020-25, has estimated that sugarcane and paddy, which are the principal sources of ethanol, are using 70% of the country's irrigation water. The share of Bihar in total production of paddy and sugarcane is 5.4% and 2.7% respectively in the country.

(d): Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme has resulted in expeditious payment to the farmers throughout the country including Bihar. Though, the Government does not transfer funds directly to the farmers, however, farmers are being benefitted as sugar mills and distilleries participating in the EBP Programme are supported to pay the dues to the farmers expeditiously from the revenues generated from the sale of ethanol to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).
