

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1892
ANSWERED ON - 17/03/2025

ENHANCING SUSTAINABILITY IN ETHANOL PRODUCTION

1892. SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

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

- (a) whether Government has explored second-generation biofuels to reduce food-versus-fuel conflicts and enhance sustainability in ethanol production;
- (b) whether Government has devised a strategy to balance ethanol demand with food security concerns, given the diversion of sugarcane and maize for ethanol production, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has encouraged Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to sign long-term contracts with ethanol producers to stabilize supply chains and ensure program's success; and
- (d) the measures that have been taken to ensure vehicle compatibility with E20 fuel, including fuel efficiency impacts, manufacturer adaptation, and compliance?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI SURESH GOPI)

(a) & (b) The National Policy on Biofuels 2018, amended in 2022, permits use of food grains during surplus phase as declared by the National Biofuel Coordination Committee. This Policy also promotes and encourages use of feedstock such as corn, cassava, rotten potatoes, damaged food grains like broken rice, food grains unfit for human consumption, maize, sugarcane juice & molasses, agriculture residues (Rice straw, cotton stalk, corn cobs, saw dust, bagasse etc.). The extent of utilization of individual feedstock for ethanol production varies annually, influenced by factors such as availability, costs, economic feasibility, market demand, and policy incentives. Any diversion of sugarcane juice, its by-products, maize etc. for ethanol production is carefully calibrated in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Further, to incentivize the use of non-food biomass for second generation ethanol production, Government has launched Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan-Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana to provide financial support to advance bio-fuel projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock.

(c) Yes.

(d) According to the Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India 2020-25, prepared by an inter-ministerial committee, using 20% ethanol-blended petrol (E20) results in marginal reduction in fuel efficiency for four-wheelers designed for E10 and calibrated for E20. The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) had informed the committee that with modifications in engine hardware and tuning, the efficiency loss due to blended fuel can be reduced. The committee report has also highlighted that no major issues were observed in vehicle performance, wear of engine components, or engine oil deterioration with E20 fuel.
