

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2689
ANSWERED ON - 24/03/2025

IMPACT OF ETHANOL BLENDING ON FOOD SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENT

2689 SMT. RANJEET RANJAN:
SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:

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

- (a) the findings of any impact assessments conducted on ethanol Natural Gas blending expansion, particularly concerning food security, water usage, and air quality;
- (b) the measures being taken to mitigate any adverse environmental or agricultural consequences arising from increased ethanol production;
- (c) the specific impact on the poultry industry due to diversion of feed for ethanol production and measures taken to assist the industry to cope; and
- (d) the current ethanol blending percentage achieved in different States and the projected timeline for meeting the 20 per cent blending target?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
(SHRI SURESH GOPI)

(a) & (b) Ethanol is not blended with Natural Gas. Government has been promoting blending of ethanol in petrol under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme with multiple objectives including reducing import dependence, savings in foreign exchange, providing boost to domestic agriculture sector and for associated environment benefits. Since 2014-15, Ethanol blending in Petrol (EBP) Programme has resulted in expeditious payment to farmers of more than Rs.1,04,000 crore up to January 2025, besides approximate savings of more than Rs.1,20,000 crore of foreign exchange, net CO₂ reduction of about 626 lakh metric tonne and crude oil substitution of more than 200 lakh metric tonnes. The National Policy on Biofuels promotes and encourages use of feedstocks 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, sawdust, 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.

Government is also encouraging farmers to diversify from water intensive crops like rice, sugarcane, etc. to more sustainable crops like maize for ethanol production. The “Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India 2020-25” has also noted that technological advancements have made it possible for molasses-based distilleries with incineration boilers and grain-based distilleries to become zero liquid discharge (ZLD) units, resulting in negligible pollution.

(c): The Government has implemented measures to support the poultry industry. Around 60% of the country's maize is utilized by the poultry industry. To ensure steady availability and affordability of poultry feed, diversification in feed sources has been promoted. Additionally, farmers are encouraged to incorporate alternative feed ingredients like sorghum, broken rice, and bajra (pearl millet) as poultry feed. Further, producing ethanol from grains like maize yields a valuable co-product known as Dried Distillers Grains with Solubles (DDGS), which is rich in protein and widely used as cattle and poultry feed.

(d): The National Policy on Biofuels – 2018, as amended in 2022, *inter-alia* advanced the target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol to Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2025-26 from 2030. During the ongoing ESY 2024-25, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have achieved ethanol blending of 17.98% up to 28.02.2025. For the month of February 2025, ethanol blending of 19.68% was achieved by Public Sector OMCs. The blending percentage achieved in different States/Union Territories during ESY 2024-25 as on 28.02.2025 is at **Annexure**.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PART (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2689 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 24.03.2024 ON “IMPACT OF ETHANOL BLENDING ON FOOD SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENT” ASKED BY SMT. RANJEET RANJAN & SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH.

Ethanol blending achieved in States/UTs during ESY 2024-25 up to 28.02.2025

STATE / UNION TERRITORY (UT)	% Blending (Sales)
Uttar Pradesh	17.63%
Maharashtra	17.79%
Tamil Nadu	18.26%
Karnataka	18.28%
Kerala	18.58%
Gujarat	17.94%
Andhra Pradesh	18.02%
Telangana	18.20%
Haryana	18.63%
Madhya Pradesh	18.29%
Rajasthan	17.99%
West Bengal	18.68%
Punjab	18.48%
Assam	17.96%
Odisha	18.34%
Bihar	17.95%
Delhi	18.00%
Chhattisgarh	15.31%
Jharkhand	17.51%
Himachal Pradesh	18.47%
Uttarakhand	17.96%
Goa	14.90%
Jammu & Kashmir	17.57%
Arunachal Pradesh	17.78%
Lakshadweep	15.00%
Ladakh	15.00%
Sikkim	18.50%
Andaman & Nicobar	5.00%
Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman & Diu	18.01%
Nagaland	18.10%
Tripura	17.69%
Mizoram	15.41%
Manipur	16.84%
Chandigarh	18.27%
Meghalaya	17.94%
Pondicherry	18.37%
Cumulative Ethanol Blending	17.98%
