

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1719
ANSWERED ON - 03/08/2026

INCREASE IN THE USE OF HIGH-OCTANE FUELS

1719#. SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that an increasing number of motorists are opting for high-octane petrol due to concerns that E20 is affecting fuel mileage and engine performance as E20 petrol has now become the default fuel across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether prices of premium petrol have increased significantly during the last one year, if so, the details of increase in its prices during the last 12 months; and
- (d) quantity of ethanol being procured every month by the petroleum companies, along with the details thereof, including the names of the purchasing companies and the suppliers?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI SURESH GOPI)

(a) & (b): The Oil Companies have been directed to sell ethanol blended petrol with percentage of ethanol up to 20 per cent having minimum Research Octane Number (RON) of 95 across the country with effect from 01.04.2026. Ethanol's higher-octane number supports modern high-compression engines and its higher heat of vaporisation improves combustion efficiency. Premium fuels are niche products sold in limited quantities at a significant price premium, as they contain specialized performance-enhancing additives. These are not separate nationwide base fuel streams. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have informed that the premium grade petrol, namely XP100 of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Power 100 of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Speed100 of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), is with 100 octane. Across the country, OMCs market ethanol-blended petrol containing up to 20% ethanol by volume under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme and the premium fuel sales constitutes less than 0.5% of the total petrol sales.

(c): Petroleum Pricing and Analysis Cell (PPAC) has informed that the retail selling price (RSP) of E20 fuel in the Delhi market has increased by Rs.7.35 per litre from 94.77 per litre since 01.07.2025 to Rs.102.12 per litre on 30.06.2026. Further the price of Premium petrol of the Public Sector OMCs during the corresponding period is as under:

All prices are in Rs. Per litre

Date	IOC	BPC	HPC
Brand Name	XP 100	Speed 100	Power 100
01.07.2025	160.00	Not Available	160.00
30.06.2026	167.35	169.00	167.40
Difference	7.35	Not Applicable	7.40

During the recent West Asian crisis, despite sharp increases in global crude prices, India was able to shield consumers through calibrated Government interventions, diversified sourcing and the increasing contribution of domestically produced biofuels. Since February 2026, even though global crude prices rose by around 70–80%, domestic petrol prices increased only by about 7–8%.

Accordingly, the data indicates that the increase in the retail price of premium petrol over the last one year is comparable to the increase in the retail price of E20 fuel in the Delhi market, indicating that there has been no significant difference in the price increase between the two.

(d): Public Sector OMCs have informed that they procure ethanol only from their registered suppliers. About 378 vendors were successful in getting an allocation of approximately 1048.5 crore litres of ethanol in the ethanol procurement tender for the ongoing Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2025-26. The quantity of ethanol procured by Public Sector OMCs Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Mangalore Refineries and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) and Numaligarh Refineries Limited (NRL) during ongoing ESY from 1st November 2025 to 30th June 2026 is 717.3 crore litres. Their month wise ethanol procurement under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme is tabulated below:

Month of ESY 2025-26	Combined Procurement Quantity of PSU Oil Companies (crore litre)
November 2025	46.1
December 2025	101.8
January 2026	91.7
February 2026	88.4
March 2026	96.0
April 2026	89.6
May 2026	103.1
June 2026	100.6
Total (ESY 2025-26)	717.3
