

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1725
ANSWERED ON - 03/08/2026

E85 RETAIL OUTLETS LAUNCHED BY OMCs

1725. SHRI HARIS BEERAN:

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

- (a) whether Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have launched E85 retail outlets, with targets to expand this dispensing infrastructure to 5,000 outlets by December, 2027;
- (b) if so, the specific technical and economic reasons why maintaining parallel supply chains for E85 is deemed logistically feasible, whereas providing E10 base fuel concurrently with E20 is cited as an impossible logistical challenge; and
- (c) the total capital expenditure currently approved by OMCs for establishing this new nationwide E85 storage and dispensing infrastructure?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI SURESH GOPI)

(a) & (b): Public Sector Undertaking Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have launched E85 fuel across 48 retail outlets spread across the Delhi/NCR region, Pune, Mumbai, Thane and Nagpur regions on 5th June 2026.

It has been informed by the PSU OMCs that maintaining an E85 supply chain alongside E20 is considered feasible because E85 is required only in select market for targeted customers. E85 fuel is meant to be used only by Flex Fuel Vehicles, which can use ethanol blends from E20 to E85. However, maintaining parallel nationwide supply chains for E0, E10 and E20 petrol across more than one lakh retail outlets would significantly increase logistics complexity, inventory and handling costs. Public policy must balance consumer convenience with energy security, environmental sustainability and farmer welfare.

Once a cleaner and scientifically validated fuel has been adopted, the objective is to move forward with better technology, not revert to an inferior standard.

(c): Public Sector OMCs have informed that the existing storage infrastructure at supply locations is adequate for current small requirement of E85, hence no capital expenditure on additional storage for E85 was done at supply locations. Moreover, for initial launch of E85 the existing storage/dispensing infrastructure available at the retail outlets has been utilized by them.
