GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1727
ANSWERED ON - 03/08/2026

VEHICLE COMPATIBILITY FINDINGS AND COMPLIANCE WITH E20 BLENDING TARGETS

1727. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

(a) the findings of Government's testing of pre-2023 vehicles running on E20 fuel, referenced by the Union Transport Minister in Parliament on 11th December, 2025;

(b) the current all-India average ethanol blending percentage achieved as against the 20 per cent target and the funds allocated, sanctioned, released and utilised for the Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme during the last three years; and

(c) whether ethanol-free (E0) petrol is mandatorily available at retail outlets, as sought in the pending PIL on vehicle compatibility?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI SURESH GOPI)

(a): The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme has been implemented through a phased, scientifically validated and consultative process involving NITI Aayog, automobile manufacturers, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) and other technical institutions.

Automobile manufacturers, component suppliers, SIAM, ARAI, testing agencies and Oil Marketing Companies were associated with scientific evaluation and phased rollout of E20. E20 was rolled out only after validation of fuel systems, engine durability, drivability, reasonable material compatibility and emissions performance and no significant variation in performance or abnormal wear and tear due to E20.

E15+ blended petrol has been in widespread use for over three-and-a-half years and E19-E20 fuel for over two-and-a-half years. More than 20 crore two-wheelers and over 3 crore petrol cars have been operating on these blends without any verified evidence of widespread engine failure or vehicle breakdown attributable to ethanol blending. Manufacturer service data confirm that there is no abnormal corrosion, wear or reduction in vehicle life due to E20 fuel. Manufacturers continue to honour warranty obligations for vehicles using E20 fuel, providing further confidence in its safety and reliability.

With regard to mileage, studies by Government agencies and automobile manufacturers indicate that fuel efficiency is influenced by several factors, including driving conditions, driving habits and vehicle maintenance. Any reduction in fuel economy in certain E10-designed vehicles is generally limited to about 3-5%, while E20 offers a higher-octane rating, superior anti-knock characteristics, cleaner combustion and smoother engine performance.

E20 fuel provides better acceleration, improved ride quality and approximately 30% lower carbon emissions compared to E10 fuel. Higher ethanol blends also enable cleaner and more complete combustion, resulting in near-zero particulate matter emissions and improved urban air quality.

A leading OEM serviced 2.84 crore vehicles during FY 2025-26, including approximately 1.5 crore vehicles that were not originally certified as E20-compatible, and reported no E20-linked corrosion, abnormal wear or reduction in component life. A leading 2-wheeler company has reported similar field experience. One OEM recently stated that data from 1.4 crore E20-operated vehicles tracked over an extended period showed no evidence of ethanol-induced corrosion. ARAI reaffirmed that vehicles undergo rigorous international-standard validation before reaching consumers.

(b): India has achieved 20% ethanol blending five years ahead of the original target after more than two decades of phased policy development, stakeholder consultations, scientific evaluation and capacity creation. The rollout was preceded by progressive enhancement of ethanol production capacity, retail infrastructure readiness, fuel quality standards and vehicle compatibility assessments, ensuring that the transition remained gradual, safe and scientifically validated. During the ESY 2025–26, as on 30.06.2026, more than 743 crore litres of ethanol have been blended, maintaining an average ethanol blending of 20% in petrol.

The EBP Programme is not funded through budgetary support from the Government. Under this Programme OMCs procure ethanol from registered ethanol suppliers with Public Sector OMCs. Accordingly, no funds have been allocated/sanctioned/released or utilised from the Government's budget for the EBP Programme. However, Government have notified the "Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan - Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana" 2019, amended in 2024, to provide financial assistance for setting up Advanced Biofuels projects in the country using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock. The scheme has an outlay of Rs. 1969.5 crore .

(c): In accordance with the Government's policy for implementation of the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme, Oil Marketing Companies have been directed to supply Ethanol Blended Motor Spirit containing up to 20% ethanol, conforming to the relevant Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications, across all States and Union Territories. Further, with effect from 1st April' 2026, Ethanol Blended Motor Spirit with a minimum Research Octane Number (RON) of 95 has been notified under the relevant statutory provisions.

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