

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2017
ANSWERED ON – 05/08/2026

COMPATIBILITY OF E20 FUEL FOR VEHICLES

2017. Shri Constandine Ravindran:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the implications of nationwide E20 fuel availability for vehicles manufactured before E20 compatibility standards were introduced;
- (b) the regulatory measures adopted to ensure that vehicle owners receive clear information regarding E20 compatibility, expected mileage, maintenance requirements and replacement of vulnerable fuel-system components;
- (c) whether Government propose to issue uniform advisory guidelines requiring automobile manufacturers and dealers to prominently disclose E20 compatibility; and
- (d) the measures proposed to strengthen consumer awareness, technical monitoring and periodic review during the transition to higher ethanol blending?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (d) Government has not received any widespread or substantiated complaints from vehicle manufacturers, automobile associations or consumer organisations regarding engine failure, fuel pump issues, corrosion, water contamination or other performance issues attributable to E20 fuel. Government has however, taken note of certain concerns raised in media and social media, which have been scientifically examined.

Extensive laboratory studies and field trials conducted by Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) and automobile manufacturers covering parameters such as engine durability, drivability, startability, corrosion resistance, material compatibility, emissions have confirmed that E20 is safe for use under prescribed standards. It has indicated a drop of 2-6 % in fuel efficiency.

These studies also established that legacy vehicles do not exhibit any variation in performance or abnormal wear and tear due to E20.

E15+ blended petrol has been in widespread use across the country for over three-and-a-half years and E19–E20 fuel for over two-and-a-half years.

Regarding the concern about vehicle mileage due to the use of E20 fuel, vehicle mileage is influenced by a range of factors beyond just fuel type. These include driving habits, maintenance practices such as oil changes and air filter cleanliness, tyre pressure and alignment, and even air conditioning load.

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.
