

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2508
ANSWERED ON - 10/08/2026

IMPLEMENTATION OF E20 FUEL

2508. SHRI PAWAN KHERA:

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

- (a) the number of petrol vehicles, E20 compatible and non-compatible across the country, vehicle-wise;
- (b) whether Government has conducted independent testing regarding the impact of E20 fuel on vehicles manufactured before E20 compatibility, if so, whether the reports have been placed in the public domain;
- (c) the reasons for not ensuring nationwide availability of pure petrol for owners of non-E20 compatible vehicles;
- (d) whether Government has assessed the financial burden on owners of older vehicles due to the transition to E20 fuel; and
- (e) the measures taken to protect consumers while implementing the ethanol blending programme?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI SURESH GOPI)

(a) to (e): 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.

Ethanol is not a new fuel. It has been used globally for over a century, with countries such as Brazil operating higher ethanol blends for decades. In India, the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme commenced with a pilot in 2001, E5 was introduced in 2006, and although blending remained around 1.53% in 2013-14, it has since been increased progressively in a calibrated manner after creating the necessary production capacity, infrastructure and regulatory framework.

Extensive laboratory studies and field trials conducted by ARAI, SIAM, IOCL, IIP and automobile manufacturers covering parameters such as engine durability, drivability, startability, corrosion resistance, material compatibility, emissions and fuel efficiency have confirmed that E20 is safe for use under prescribed standards.

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.

Having been scientifically validated and accepted by the automobile industry after extensive testing, there is no proposal to revert to E0/E10 petrol. The objective of public policy is to move forward with a superior fuel, not return to an inferior standard.

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.

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 shared with OMCs have not indicated any abnormal corrosion, wear or reduction in vehicle life attributable to E20 fuel. Manufacturers continue to honour warranty obligations for vehicles using E20 fuel, providing further confidence in its safety and reliability.

To safeguard and protect consumer interests, Ethanol Blended Motor Spirit (EBMS) supplied and sold through Retail Outlets (ROs) is ensured to conform to the applicable BIS specifications. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have issued detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to dealerships covering the receipt, inspection, sampling, decantation and sale of EBMS at retail outlets.

Furthermore, to mitigate quality concerns related to moisture ingress, particularly during the monsoon period, OMC officials undertake periodic water-ingress audits of Motor Spirit (MS) storage tanks at retail points. Dealers are additionally mandated to monitor water levels in MS tanks at scheduled intervals to maintain product integrity.

Moreover, public awareness initiatives are also undertaken to educate consumers about the technical compatibility of E20 fuel with all petrol vehicles without any performance issue and the environmental and energy security benefits of ethanol blending. Consumer feedback received through the grievance redressal mechanisms is regularly monitored by the OMCs, and appropriate corrective measures are taken wherever required to ensure consumer confidence while advancing the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme.
