GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2510
ANSWERED ON - 10/08/2026

E-100 INFRASTRUCTURE, VEHICLE COMPATIBILITY, AND FOOD SECURITY IMPLICATIONS

2510. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

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

(a) current number of retail outlets dispensing E-85 and E-100 fuel, against Government's target of 500 outlets by December, 2026 and 5,000 by 2027;

(b) whether E-100 is currently priced at par with petrol and if so, whether Government will bring it below the 70 per cent threshold recommended for consumer viability;

(c) proportion of sugarcane, maize and rice production diverted toward ethanol under E-20 and E-100 programmes; and

(d) whether a food security impact assessment was conducted before mandating increased ethanol blending, given India's ranking on global hunger indices?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI SURESH GOPI)

(a): 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. As per Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), ethanol produced under IS 15464 can be used only as a blending stock with petrol. Hence, E-100 in itself is not a standalone fuel.

(b): Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c): The details regarding the quantity of FCI rice and maize diverted for ethanol production during Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2023-24, 2024-25 and current ESY 2025-26 are as under:

Quantity in Lakh Metric Tonne (LMT)

Feedstock	ESY 2023–24	ESY 2024–25	ESY 2025–26 (up to 30.06.2026)
Surplus FCI rice	–	31.11	39.28
Maize	75.38	131.18	67.87

(d): The target of 20% ethanol blending has not affected food crop availability or India's food security. The Government follows an open-ended procurement system at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), under which procurement for the Public Distribution System (PDS), National Food Security Act (NFSA), Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) and prescribed buffer stocks is accorded the highest priority.

Only surplus foodgrains, as determined by the Department of Food & Public Distribution after meeting all food security requirements and maintaining prescribed buffer stocks, are permitted for ethanol production.

The programme follows a "waste-to-wealth" approach by utilizing surplus agricultural produce, including damaged foodgrains, broken rice and foodgrains unfit for human consumption, as well as other approved feedstocks, which might otherwise remain underutilized or deteriorate in storage.

This generates additional income for farmers, strengthens India's energy security and reduces dependence on imported crude oil, while fully safeguarding national food security. The Government is also promoting Second Generation (2G) ethanol from agricultural residues under the Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana, thereby further reducing dependence on food-based feedstocks.

Accordingly, the programme strengthens energy security, provides an additional remunerative market for farmers and reduces dependence on imported crude oil, while fully safeguarding national food security.

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