

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1486
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13th FEBRUARY, 2025

ETHANOL BLENDED FUEL

1486. DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) whether the Government has a plan to push for higher ethanol blended fuel, assuming that it is greener and economically better for our country and if so, the details thereof along with scientific data; and
- (b) whether the Government has noticed the fact that the process of ethanol production is quite polluting and growing sugarcane to produce ethanol wastes scarce cropland and even scarcer water and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
(श्री सुरेश गोपी)

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
(SHRI SURESH GOPI)**

(a) The National Policy on Biofuels- 2018, amended in 2022, *inter-alia* advanced the target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol to Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2025-26 from 2030 thereby accelerating adoption of ethanol blending in petrol. The “Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India 2020-25” has estimated that a successful E20 (20% ethanol blending in petrol) programme can save the country about 4 billion US Dollar (USD) per annum. The Roadmap had also estimated reduction of carbon monoxide emission of about 50% in two wheelers and 30% in four wheelers through using E20 compare to E0 (neat petrol). Hydrocarbon emissions are estimated to reduce by 20% in both two wheelers and passenger cars.

(b) The National Policy on Biofuels promotes and encourages use of feedstocks such as corn, cassava, rotten potatoes, damaged food grains like broken rice, food grains unfit for human consumption, maize, sugarcane juice & molasses, agriculture residues (Rice straw, cotton stalk, corn cobs, sawdust, bagasse etc.). The extent of utilization of individual feedstock for ethanol production varies annually, influenced by factors such as availability, costs, economic feasibility, market demand, and policy incentives. The Government is encouraging farmers to diversify from water intensive crops like rice, sugarcane, etc. to more sustainable crops like maize for ethanol production. The “Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India 2020-25” has also noted that technological advancements have made it possible for molasses-based distilleries with incineration boilers and grain-based distilleries to become zero liquid discharge (ZLD) units, resulting in negligible pollution.
