

June 22, 2016

To,  
The Editor,  
Business Line,  
New Delhi.

**Sub: Inaccurate data and facts in an article on ethanol blending.**

Dear Sir,

An article titled "*Ethanol blending programme could just run out of fuel*" appeared in your Delhi edition newspaper filed by Shri Rahul Wadke from Mumbai, on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2016. There are several factual inaccuracies and seems to have been written without enough research, and unfortunately without speaking to either the sugar industry who are the suppliers, or the OMCs, who are the buyers of ethanol.

2. Details about the ethanol blending programme are in the public domain, and several newspapers, including yours, have on many occasions, correctly reported / written about the ethanol blending programme. Despite that, it's surprising to see this article, which lacks correct facts/ figures and distorts the reality of the programme, to suggest that the programme will get derailed.

3. During the current season, sugar mills/ethanol manufacturers have contracted for supply of 130 crore litres of ethanol, out of which the OMCs have already lifted 58 crore litres. Instead of highlighting this to establish that the country will achieve 5% ethanol blending with petrol, the Correspondent has written that the OMCs had floated EOIs for 91 crore litres of ethanol in February, adding that, against that, the response was tepid. Kindly note that by February 2016, the ethanol suppliers had already contracted for 113 crore litres, and therefore to state that response of supplies was tepid for 91 crore litres is inaccurate and cannot be appreciated, especially when so many Correspondents have highlighted this earlier. Your newspaper also carried an article quoting the Hon'ble Minister for Petroleum Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan with some facts and figure, on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2016. There is enough ethanol to ensure that the blending programme is not just running, but sprinting in the current year. From 24 crore litres of ethanol supplies in 2013-14, the supplies went up to 67 crore litres in 2014-15. Thereafter, the contracts signed for 2015-16 is almost double to that of last year.

4. In the case of Maharashtra, he has written that against 35 crore litres of contracts, supplies have been for only 11 crore litres. The correct figure till 21<sup>st</sup> June is 15.28 crore litres. However he has failed to mention that the suppliers have another over 5 months to supply the balance of about 20 crore litres till November 2016, giving a wrong understanding of the supply position.

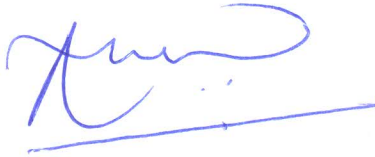
5. The ethanol blending programme is an important national programme. The Government is optimistic about the programme. The Prime Minister has tweeted saying EBP was a big success in 2015, benefitting sugarcane farmers. The benefits of the ethanol blending programme are manifold. It's a green fuel and would protect the environment for the future generations. Given the importance of the programme, it is important that a responsible and fully informed reporting is done on the matter. We at ISMA, are available round the clock to provide the required facts and figures on the same. All your past and present Correspondents covering sugar and ethanol will confirm that.

6. The Correspondent who has written the article may be advised to carry out a detailed research before writing on such an important subject and avoid suggesting that the ethanol programme will run out of fuel due to shortage of production and supplies.

7. Therefore, we humbly request you to issue a rejoinder on the article or publish our letter. We sincerely hope to get the cooperation that we have got so far, from your esteemed newspaper.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,



(Abinash Verma)  
Director General