

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 770

ANSWERED ON:21.07.2022

Ethanol Blended Fuel

Shashi Tharoor

- (a)whether the Government has data on the loss in fuel efficiency due to usage of E10 and E20 ethanol-blended fuel, in vehicles plying on the roads as of February, 2022;
- (b)if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c)whether the non-ethanol blended fuel would continue to be supplied, alongside E10 and E20 fuel, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d)whether the resulting loss in fuel efficiency hurt the average consumer, at a time of skyrocketing fuel prices and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e)whether the Government proposes to compensate vehicle owners for the ensuing loss in fuel efficiency in non-E10 and non-E20 compliant vehicles and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f)whether E10 and E20 blended fuels would be supplied at a subsidized price compared to non-ethanol gasoline and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)

(a) to (f): Government is implementing Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme with multiple objectives of reducing import dependence, savings in foreign exchange, providing boost to domestic agriculture sector and associated environment benefits. Currently, under EBP Programme, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) sell E-10 (10% ethanol blended petrol) fuel meeting Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications as per availability of ethanol. Therefore, in some pockets of the country, in case ethanol is not available for some interim period due to any reason, non-blended ethanol fuel may have to be supplied with E-10 in the remaining areas where ethanol is available. Dispensing of E-20 ethanol-blended petrol has not yet been introduced in the country.

A joint study by Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) Dehradun, Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Pune and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) R&D on E20 as fuel with existing vehicles was undertaken under the aegis of Department of Heavy Industry (DHI). The study indicated that E-10 ethanol-blended fuel is not only environment friendly but also has higher Research Octane Number (RON) due to addition of ethanol. Ethanol is added as oxygenate and hence increases oxygen content for combustion, leading to enleanment of combusted mixture. The findings indicated that the un-burnt hydrocarbon and carbon monoxide emissions decreased by about 20% with E-10 compared to E-0 (neat petrol) on both two wheelers and passenger cars. It also indicated that no clear trend of fuel economy change on account of blending of ethanol was observed during the mileage build-up for E-10 blend.

Currently, the landed price of ethanol is lower than petrol and therefore ethanol blending in petrol has helped in reducing the overall cost as compared to unblended petrol.
