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<th>Q. No.</th>
<th>Q. Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Ans by Ministry</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Title of the Questions</th>
<th>Subject Specific</th>
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<td>05.03.2013</td>
<td>Petroleum and Natural Gas</td>
<td>Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani</td>
<td>Strategic oil reserves for energy security</td>
<td>Energy Studies</td>
<td>BJP</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
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<td>Petroleum and Natural Gas</td>
<td>Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy</td>
<td>Introduction of bio fuels</td>
<td>Alternative Technologies</td>
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<td>Pollution</td>
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<td>Shri Nand Kumar Sai Rangarajan Committee Report</td>
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<td>Petroleum and Natural Gas</td>
<td>Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy</td>
<td>Progress of third generation Bio fuels</td>
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<td>Petroleum and Natural Gas</td>
<td>Smt. Wansuk Syiem</td>
<td>Boost for ethanol blending programme</td>
<td>Alternative Technologies</td>
<td>INC</td>
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STRATEGIC OIL RESERVES FOR ENERGY SECURITY  
5th March, 2013  

RSQ *111

SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI

(a) whether Government had built strategic oil reserves to ensure energy security for the country;  
(b) if so, the details thereof and whether this is sufficient to meet any type of emergency; and  
(c) in what manner, the maintenance of these strategic oil reserves is done and their safety ensured?

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 111 BY SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI TO BE ANSWERED ON 5.3.2013 REGARDING STRATEGIC OIL RESERVES FOR ENERGY SECURITY

(a) & (b): Sir, the Government, through Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), is setting up Strategic Crude Oil Reserves with storage capacity of 5.33 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) at three locations viz. Visakhapatnam (storage capacity: 1.33 MMT), Mangalore (storage capacity: 1.5 MMT) and Padur (storage capacity: 2.5 MMT) to enhance the energy security of the country.

The Integrated Energy Policy (2008) approved by the Government has, inter alia, recommended that “a reserve, equivalent to 90 days of oil imports should be maintained for strategic-cum-buffer stock purposes and/or buy options for emergency supplies from neighboring large storages such as those available in Singapore. The buffer stocks should be used to address short-term price volatility…”. The country currently has approximately 72 days of crude oil and petroleum products cover on import basis. In order to further increase the Strategic crude oil storage capacity, ISPRL has undertaken a detailed feasibility study for construction of additional 12.5 MMT of crude oil storages in Phase-II at four locations viz. Bikaner, Rajkot, Chandikhol and Padur.

(c): The Strategic Crude Oil Reserves Projects at Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Padur are likely to be commissioned progressively between 2013-14 and 2014-15 and ISPRL has been mandated to operate and maintain these Strategic Crude Oil Reserves. The underground rock caverns are the safest means of storing hydrocarbon. ISPRL has been adhering to the Oil Industry Safety Directorate norms for ensuring safety of the underground caverns.

INTRODUCTION OF BIO FUELS  
12th March, 2013

RSQ 1682

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY

(a) the steps being taken by Government for introduction of bio-fuels such as ethanol blended petrol and blended bio-diesel as a suitable alternative to petroleum products;  
(b) the details of the achievements made in this regard as compared to other countries;  
(c) whether the efforts made by Government in this regard have not yielded the desired result; and  
(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by Government to improve the working of agencies involved therein?

MINISTER of STATE for PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAAKA LAKSHMI)
A National Policy on Bio-fuels has been notified by the Government in December 2009, to bring about accelerated development and promotion of the cultivation, production and use of bio-fuels including bio-ethanol and bio-diesel.

In India, Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme has been launched. Quantity of ethanol blended in petrol during the last three years and the current year is given as below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Quantity blended by OMCs (Crore Litres)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov’2009-Sept’2010</td>
<td>5.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct’2010-Sept’2011</td>
<td>36.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct’2011-Sept’2012</td>
<td>30.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct’2012-Jan’2013</td>
<td>0.45</td>
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Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in its meeting held on 22.11.2012 has decided inter-alia that 5% mandatory blending be reckoned for the country as a whole. In view of this decision, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) has issued a Gazette Notification dated 02.01.2013 directing Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to sell Ethanol blended petrol with percentage of ethanol upto 10% as per BIS Specification. OMCs have floated tenders for procurement.

As regards Bio-diesel, MoPNG had announced a Bio-diesel Purchase Policy effective from 1.1.2006. Under this scheme OMCs purchase bio-diesel at a uniform landed price for blending with High Speed Diesel (HSD) to the extent of 5% at identified 20 purchase centres across the country.

Considering the retail selling price of diesel, OMCs have declared landed price of Bio-diesel as Rs.37.50 per litre.

MALPRACTICES IN HPCL OPERATED SUGARCUM ETHANOL PLANTS  
19th March, 2013

RSQ 2457

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN

(a) whether there have been reports of malpractices such as nepotism and black-marketing of challans in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) operated sugar-cum-ethanol plants in Champaran district of Bihar;
(b) if so, whether the Ministry has received any complaint regarding it at various levels including PGPORTAL;
(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
(d) whether there is urgent need for bringing more transparency to check such corrupt practices in issuing of challans; and
(e) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SMT. PANABAAKA LAKSHMI)

a) to (e): Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has reported that HPCL’s wholly owned subsidiary HPCL Biofuels Limited (HBL), operates an integrated sugar, ethanol and cogen plants at Sugauli and Lauriya in East and West Champaran Districts in the State of Bihar.
A complaint alleging irregularities in appointments has been received and the matter is under examination.

SALE OF ADULTERATED PETROL AT PETROL PUMPS  
30th April, 2013

RSQ 3839

DR. PRABHA THAKUR

(a) whether Government has received complaints that some petrol pumps are selling adulterated petrol or diesel;
(b) whether such adulteration may lead to any technical failure of vehicles and may increase the environmental pollution; and
(c) if so, the details of the measures taken by Government to check the adulteration?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SMT. PANABAAKA LAKSHMI)

(a): Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that general complaints about petrol pumps including that of adulteration, are received by them.

(b) : Yes, Sir. Prolonged usage of adulterated motoring fuels like Petrol and Diesel results in damaging the pistons in the combustible chamber of the engine leading to un-burnt fuel in exhaust emissions which can contribute to environmental degradation / pollution.

(c) : The Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply, Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 2005 issued by the Central Government under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 provides for punitive action against malpractices such as adulteration.

Public Sector OMCs also undertake regular and surprise inspection of Retail Outlets and take action under the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against the outlets found indulging in irregularities/malpractices. The MDG provides for termination of outlets in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals and unauthorized fittings/gears in the dispensing units.

The Government has also taken a number of initiatives viz. Automation of Retail Outlets, Third Party Certification of Retail outlets, Monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS) to check various irregularities/malpractices at retail outlets of various OMCs.

RANGARAJAN COMMITTEE REPORT
30th April, 2013
RSQ 3849
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI

(a) whether Government has been working to create enabling and conducive environment to promote investments, by making fiscal terms that are simple to administer;

(b) if so, whether towards this direction, Government has set up a committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the said Committee has submitted its Report; and

(e) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein and the details of action finalised by Government on such recommendations so far?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (e): The Government in May, 2012, has constituted a Committee headed by Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Prime Minister’s Economic Advisory Council, to review Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) in Hydrocarbon exploration. The Committee is to look into all modifications necessary for future Production Sharing Contracts so as to enhance production of oil and gas and the Government’s share of this while minimizing procedures for monitoring the expenditure of producers.

The Terms of Reference of the Committee are:

(i) Review of the existing PSCs, including in respect of the current profit-sharing mechanism with the Pre-Tax Investment Multiple (PTIM) as the base parameter;

(ii) Exploring various contract models with a view to minimize the monitoring of expenditure of the contractor without compromising, firstly, on the hydrocarbons output across time and, secondly, on the Government’s take;

(iii) A suitable mechanism for managing the contract implementation of PSCs which is being handled at present by the representation of Regulator/Government nominee appointed to the Managing Committee;

(iv) Suitable Governmental mechanisms to monitor and to audit GOI share of profit petroleum;
(v) Structure and elements of the Guidelines for determining the basis or formula for the price of domestically produced gas, and for monitoring actual price fixation;

(vi) Any other issues relating to PSCs.

The Committee has submitted its Report to the Government. The recommendations of the Committee can be viewed/downloaded from the official website of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister http://eac.gov.in/. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of the Government.

ETHANOL PRODUCTION BY OIL PSUS
7th May, 2013
RSQ 4480
SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI

(a) whether the PSUs oil companies have planned to enter ethanol production and cultivations of plants like Jatropha to be used for blending with diesel for expanding their business in bio-fuel category;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard particularly in Twelfth Five Year Plan?

MINISTER of STATE for PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) has created a 100% owned subsidiary unit – M/s Hindustan Bio-fuels Ltd. (HBL) in Bihar by reviving two old Sugar plants in Bihar (Sugauli & Lauria), which are integrated automated plants for manufacture of sugar, ethanol and co-gen power plant. Both the plants together having installed production capacity of 32400 KL per annum and both the sugar plants have commenced Ethanol production from March 2012.
As regards cultivation of Jatropha, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have undertaken Jatropha plantation in the states of Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The plantations are yet to mature.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION BY ADULTERATED OIL
27th August, 2013
RSQ 1990
DR. PRABHA THAKUR

(a) whether Government has received complaints regarding selling of adulterated oil or diesel by some petrol pumps;
(b) whether this adulteration can cause any kind of technical fault in vehicles and this may increase environmental pollution, which is injurious to health;
(c) if so, the measures taken by Government to check adulteration; and
(d) the details of action taken in different cases along with the details thereof?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SMT. PANABAAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) : Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that general complaints about petrol pumps including that of adulteration, are received by them.
(b) : Yes, sir. Prolonged usage of adulterated motoring fuels like Petrol and Diesel can result in damage to the pistons of the engine and un-burnt fuel in exhaust emissions which can contribute to environmental degradation / pollution.
(c) : The Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply, Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 2005 issued by the Central Government under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 provides for punitive action against malpractices such as adulteration.

Public Sector OMCs also undertake regular and surprise inspection of Retail Outlets and take action under the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against the outlets found
indulging in irregularities/malpractices. The MDG provides for termination of outlets in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals and unauthorized fittings/gears in the dispensing units.

The Government has also taken a number of initiatives viz. Automation of Retail Outlets, Third Party Certification of Retail outlets, Monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS) to check various irregularities/malpractices at retail outlets of various OMCs.

(d) : OMCs have terminated 149 retail outlet dealerships during the last three years and current year (April-June 2013-14) against established cases of adulteration.

PROGRESS OF THIRD GENERATION BIO FUELS
17th December, 2013

RSQ 1358

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY

(a) the current status of progress made under India"s National Policy on Bio-fuels, that aims at 20% blending of Bio-fuels by 2017;
(b) whether increasing the Bio-fuel blending targets are likely to result in a significant reduction of oil imports made by the country;
(c) if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the details of initiatives Government has taken for promoting third generation Bio-fuels apart from ethanol and Jatropha-based bio-diesel?

MINISTER of STATE for PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) : The Government has decided on 3.7.2013 that Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) will procure ethanol only from domestic sources to achieve the mandatory requirement of blending 5% ethanol with Petrol by October, 2013 in areas/parts of the country where sufficient quantity of ethanol is available. In other parts of the country, blending of ethanol may be increased progressively, depending upon the availability of ethanol, to reach the mandatory level. Accordingly, OMCs are implementing the programme in 20 States and 4 UTs depending upon the availability of ethanol.
As regards blending of Bio-diesel, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had announced a Bio-diesel Purchase Policy in October 2005, which became effective from 1.1.2006. Under this policy, OMCs would purchase bio-diesel, meeting the prescribed BIS standard, at a uniform price as may be decided by the OMCs from time to time, for blending with High Speed Diesel (HSD) to the extent of 5% at identified 20 purchase centres across the country. Presently the declared price of Bio-diesel is Rs.42.50 per litre w.e.f. 26.10.2013. However, the Bio-diesel manufacturers have not come forward to sell their Bio-diesel produce to OMCs at this declared price.
(b)&(c): Blending of ethanol with Petrol would have very little impact on import of crude oil, since Petrol is only a by-product of the distillation process and presently overall blending of ethanol is limited to 5% only.
(d): Research & Development is being pursued through different Scientific Agencies on feedstock development, conversion process and production of ethanol from agricultural waste/residues and algae through second and third generation technologies.

BOOST FOR ETHANOL BLENDING PROGRAMME
11th February, 2014

RSQ 2127

SMT. WANSUK SYIEM

(a) whether Government’s Ethanol Blending Programme has received a recent boost with more than 80 participating suppliers responding to the fresh tender of OMCs for supply of 133 crore litres of ethanol for blending during December 2013- November 2014;
(b) India being a sugar surplus nation, whether Government would prevail upon sugar industry to divert more molasses for ethanol production, which does not call for curtailment of export of surplus sugar; and
(c) whether Brazil, the world’s largest sugarcane grower, caters to almost 51 per cent of its fuel market with ethanol blended fuel and the US, World’s second largest bio-fuel exporter, produces ethanol mainly from corn, a foodcrop?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have floated a Public E-tender on 22.07.2013 for procurement of a quantity of 133.2 crore litres of ethanol for Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme for the period 1.12.2013 to 30.11.2014 at 111 Industry locations. In response to the said Tender, a total of 80 valid Bids were received offering a quantity of 61.3 crore litres of ethanol at 72 Industry locations. After 4 rounds of negotiations with qualified bidders, Industry could finalize procurement of 25.2 crore litres of ethanol.

(b) Sugar availability during current sugar season 2013-14, including estimated production of 241 lakh tonnes and carry over stock of 91 lakh tonnes, would be more than the domestic consumption/requirement of 235 lakh tonnes. Sugar exports have been low due to subdued international prices. However, export of sugar is free subject to prior registration of quantity with DGFT. Also, there is no restriction on ethanol production from molasses including B-Heavy molasses.

(c) As per the “Renewables 2013 Global Status Report”, global production of fuel ethanol in 2012 was an estimated 83.1 billion litres, down about 1.3% by volume from 2011. Overall, the United States accounted for 61% (63% in 2011) of global ethanol production and Brazil for 26% (25% in 2011).