

In a bid to ease availability of Ethanol, State Governments have been requested to simplify procedures and expedite clearances to ease the availability of Ethanol for the EBP Programme.

Export of petroleum products to Pakistan

2585. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has offered to export petroleum products to Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the details of the proposal;
- (c) whether Indian refineries will construct pipelines for delivery of petroleum products to Pakistan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) and (b) Pursuant to the decisions taken in the 5th Round of Talks on Commercial and Economic Cooperation between the Commerce Secretaries of India and Pakistan held in Islamabad on 27-28 April, 2011, a 'Group of Experts' to Expand Trade in Petroleum Products between India and Pakistan' was constituted.

The objective of the Experts' Group is to initiate and substantially expand trade in petroleum products between the two countries. The group would, *inter-alia*, discuss the trade arrangements, building of cross border pipelines and use of road/rail route, including the Munabao-Khokrapar route.

The First Meeting of the Experts' Group on Trade in Petroleum & Petrochemical Products between India and Pakistan was held on 17-18 July, 2012 at New Delhi.

Both sides agreed to take up infrastructure and logistics related issues with their respective authorities like Department of Posts, Railways, Finance, Home Affairs etc. in order to boost trade between the two countries.

(c) and (d) At present, the Government does not have any specific proposal to construct pipelines connecting India and Pakistan for transportation of petroleum products.