during April - October, 2012 was around 59% as compared to 45% during the corresponding period of previous year.

The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has written to the Ministry of Finance for levying additional excise duty on Diesel cars.

Pilferage of diesel and petrol from oil depots of HPCL

573. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any complaints relating to pilferage and adulteration of diesel and petrol in the oil depots of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and retail outlets in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of cases regarding pilferage and adulteration of oil brought to the notice of Government till date and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has reported 9 cases of attempted pilferage of petroleum products from their Oil Depots during the last three years and current year (April-October, 2012), and action was taken in all the cases.

(c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have terminated 114 retail outlets against the established cases of adulteration during the last three years and the current year (upto September, 2012) which includes 33 cases of termination of retail outlets of HPCL.

Shortage in domestic oil consumption

574. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether eighty per cent of the country's consumption of petrol and its allied products are imported and this has resulted in domestic shortage;

(b) to what extent prices of petroleum and related products have changed due to this;

(c) whether Government is considering to conduct geological and oceanic surveys to find oil reserves within the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) The Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) has been conducting geophysical survey under Speculative Business Model since the year 2006. Such speculative surveys do not involve any Government expenditure. In addition to this, various other Geo-Surveys are also carried out by DGH.

Ethanol-blended petrol

575. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the States which have been producing ethanol during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the reasons for non-implementation of mandatory ethanol-blended petrol in the country;

(c) the Ministries which are opposing the move and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of each of the recommendations made by the Saumitra Chaudhuri Committee in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Following are the states producing ethanol from where Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been able to source during last three years:

2009-10	Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar
2010-11	-do-
2011-12	-do-

Government of Tamil Nadu has permitted the sale of ethanol to OMCs for EBP Programme *w.e.f.* sugar year 2012-13.