

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Introduction of ethanol blended petrol as fuel**

*6. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any decision has been taken by Government to introduce ethanol blended petrol in the country soon;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) what shall be the advantages of ethanol blended petrol in the country; and
- (d) whether any time-frame has been fixed for introduction of the blended fuel in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme was launched *w.e.f.* 1st January, 2003 in nine States and four Union Territories for sale of 5% ethanol blended petrol. Government has directed the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to sell 5% Ethanol Blended Petrol as per Bureau of Indian Standards specifications in the notified States and UTs of the country with effect from 1st November, 2006, subject to commercial viability.

Presently, the Government, through OMCs, is implementing EBP Programme in twenty one States and four Union Territories under which, OMCs sell EBP with percentage of ethanol upto 10%.

Ethanol has higher octane than petrol and burns slowly and completely resulting in reduced emissions. Government is promoting use of EBP to address environmental concerns, provide remunerative income to farmers and to reduce import bill.

Privatisation of 'Air India'

*7. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the privatisation plan of the National Carrier 'Air India' has found no takers till the last date of the bid/FDI;
- (b) what would be the plan of action of the Government after the failure of the efforts of FDI; and