

(e) the State-wise price variability?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Ministry of Power (MoP) has informed that no gas-based capacity has been added in the Financial Year 2017-18.

(c) and (d) Domestic gas is being allocated to all sectors including power sector as per Gas Utilisation Policy of the Government issued from time to time subject to availability of gas, pipeline connectivity and techno-commercial viability. Ministry of Power had introduced a scheme for the revival of Stranded gas-based Power plants for the year 2015-16 and 2016-17 which was discontinued by MoP from 31.03.2017.

(e) The supply/price of domestic gas is being governed as per the Gas Pricing and Utilization Policy of the Government issued/amended from time to time. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is imported under open general license on the terms and conditions mutually agreed upon between the buyers and sellers. Further, delivered price of gas to the power plants depend on type of gas, applicable pipeline transportation tariff, applicable regasification charges, applicable taxes etc.

Setting up of second generation ethanol bio-refineries

930. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed to set up 12 Second Generation (2G) ethanol bio-refineries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ethanol produced at present in the country is sufficient to sell ethanol blended petrol;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Oil PSUs have entered into Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with State Governments and Technology Providers for setting up five 2G ethanol bio-refineries. On 25.12.2016, foundation stone of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited's first 2G ethanol bio-refinery in Bathinda, Punjab, has been laid.

Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) for bio-refineries at 5 places has been prepared. Land has been allotted in 5 places.

On 04.06.2018, a Joint Venture company namely “Assam Bio-Refinery Pvt. Ltd.” has been incorporated with equity participation among Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. (NRL), M/s Chempolis Oy of Finland and M/s Fortum 3 B.V. of Netherland, for setting up 2G Ethanol Biorefinery in Assam.

(c) to (e) The Government through Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), is implementing Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme under which OMCs sell ethanol blended petrol with ethanol blending percentage upto 10%, subject to the availability of ethanol.

The quantity of ethanol available for EBP Programme is less than the quantity required to achieve blending targets as ethanol produced in the country is also used in Potable and Chemical Sector. For the ethanol supply year 2017-18, OMCs had floated tender for procurement of 313 crore litres of ethanol against which contracts have been signed for supply of 153.74 crore litres of ethanol under EBP Programme. In the National Policy on Biofuels – 2018, Government has allowed B-heavy molasses, sugarcane juice and damaged food grains as feedstocks to increase availability of ethanol.

Increase in indigenous production of oil

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

(a) whether in view of the substantial increase in oil prices globally, any decision has been taken by Government to increase oil production within the country to reduce imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what further steps are being taken for oil extraction from new oilfields within the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The policy initiatives taken by the Government to enhance domestic production of oil and gas include:—

- (i) Policy for Relaxations, Extensions and clarifications under Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime for early monetization of hydrocarbon Discoveries, 2014.
- (ii) Policy on Testing Requirements, 2015.
- (iii) Discovered Small Field Policy, 2015.