

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.

- (iv) Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy, 2016.
- (v) Policy for Extension of Production Sharing Contracts, 2016 and 2017.
- (vi) Policy for early monetization of Coal Bed Methane.
- (vii) Setting up of National Data Repository, 2017.
- (viii) Appraisal of Unappraised areas in Sedimentary Basins.
- (ix) Re-assessment of Hydrocarbon Resources.
- (x) Streamlining the working of Production Sharing Contracts in Pre-NELP and NELP Blocks, 2018.

The steps taken by the Government to achieve the goal of reducing the dependency on import in energy from oil and gas include:—

- (i) Increasing domestic production of oil and gas;
- (ii) Promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures;
- (iii) Giving thrust on demand substitution;
- (iv) Capitalizing untapped potential in bio-fuels and other alternate fuels/renewable and;
- (v) Implementing measures for refinery process improvements.

(c) Government has approved Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) to increase exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons. Under the Policy, 55 blocks spread over a total area of 59,282 sq km basins over onland, shallow water and deep water areas across 10 sedimentary basins were offered for International Competitive Bidding in Round-I. Government has also approved Discovered Small Field Policy (DSF) in 2015. Further, in the first round of DSF, 30 contracts for 43 discovered small fields were signed in March, 2017. In addition, 60 more fields/discoveries have been identified for bidding in DSF Bid Round-II. These discoveries are estimated to have 194.65 Million Metric Ton (MMT) Oil and Oil equivalent gas in place.

Import of crude oil from Iran

†932. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of crude oil being imported by India from Iran at present;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.