

(c) and (d) One block MZ-ONN-2004/2 was awarded under New Exploration Licensing Policy-VI to the consortium consisting of M/s NAFTOGAZ India Pvt. Ltd., Reliance Natural Resources Limited, GEOPETROL International Inc. and Reliance Energy Ltd. for carrying out exploration and production activities in Lunglei, Saiha and Lawangtlai district. This block was terminated by Government on account of fraudulent representation at the time of bidding by M/s NAFTOGAZ India Pvt. Ltd. *vide* Termination Notice dated 11.10.2012. Accordingly, State Government of Mizoram *vide* letter dated 04.01.2013 was requested for cancellation of Petroleum Exploration License of Block MZ-ONN-2004/2.

#### **Blending of ethanol with petrol**

3790. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether countries like Brazil blend 25-30 per cent of ethanol in petrol, 15 per cent by the US and 85 per cent being planned by Thailand;

(b) if so, reasons why after 13-14 years of our programme we have not been able to achieve even 6 per cent blending of ethanol into petrol;

(c) in view of above, why Government has decided to withdraw ₹ 5 incentive per litre and restoring 12.5 per cent excise duty on ethanol;

(d) whether it discourages sugar mills from submitting Expression of Interest to supply ethanol and thereby impact blending with petrol; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) As per the available information, the blending percentage of ethanol with Petrol is around 27 per cent in Brazil; 10 per cent and 15 per cent in USA and 10 per cent, 20 per cent and 85 per cent in Thailand.

(b) The Government through Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), is implementing Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme under which, OMCs sell ethanol blended petrol with percentage of ethanol up to 10 per cent, subject to the availability of ethanol. Lower availability of ethanol for EBP Programme has resulted in lower average blending percentage.

(c) to (e) With effect from 1st July, 2017, ethanol is covered under GST and the applicable GST rate on ethanol is 18 per cent.