

- (b) if so, the details thereof and salient features of the proposed policy;
- (c) the amount of money that the oil PSUs spent during the last five years on Research and Development on biofuels; and
- (d) whether Government has any plan for using ethanol plants in various parts of the country so that public transport can run on biofuel on the lines of Nagpur where 50 buses are running 100 per cent on biofuels?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Government has notified the National Policy on Biofuels - 2018 on 04th June, 2018. This policy has laid out indicative targets of achieving 20% blending of ethanol in petrol and 5% blending of biodiesel in diesel by 2030 in the country. The salient features of the Policy are as under:-

- (i) Categorization of biofuels as "Basic Biofuels" and "Advanced Biofuels",
 - (ii) Incentives, off-take assurance and viability gap funding for advanced biofuels,
 - (iii) Allowing B-molasses, sugarcane juice, damaged food grains and surplus food grains for ethanol production,
 - (iv) Setting up of supply chain mechanisms for biodiesel production from non-edible oilseeds, Used Cooking Oil, short gestation crops, and
 - (v) Synergy of efforts by defining roles and responsibilities of all the concerned Ministries/Departments with respect to biofuels.
- (c) DBT-IOC Centre of Advanced Bio-Energy Research at IOCL R&D Centre, Faridabad has spent ₹ 1978.19 lakh during last five years on Research and Development on Biofuels. BPCL has spent ₹ 1228 lakh during the period 2014-15 to 2018-19. Also, HPCL has spent around ₹ 2850 lakh during the last five years.
- (d) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are setting twelve second generation (2G) ethanol bio-refineries in eleven States for production of ethanol from various lignocellulosic biomass.

Oil reserves in Rajasthan

1564. SHRI K. J. ALPHONS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the areas in Rajasthan which have proven oil reserves;

- (b) in how many such locations have commercial exploration begun; and
- (c) the total crude oil output from Rajasthan during the last three years and what is the royalty received by Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Banner, Jaisalmer and Bikaner-Nagaur areas in Rajasthan have proven oil reserves. Commercial production of oil/condensate has begun in all the three areas.

(c) The Total oil/condensate production and royalty received by the State Government during the last three years are as under:-

Period	Crude Oil/Condensate Production (In Million Metric Tonne)	Royalty (₹ in crore)
2016-17	8.165	2319.81
2017-18	7.887	2594.57
2018-19	7.667	3807.99

National Gas Grid

1565. SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to develop a National Gas Grid;
- (b) if so, the details and the objectives thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) had organised an interactive discussion with upstream, midstream and downstream entities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) is the authority to grant authorization to the entities to lay, build, operate or expand Gas Pipeline as per PNGRB Act, 2006. To increase the availability of natural gas across the