

for sale of 5% ethanol blended petrol. This was further extended to twenty States and four Union Territories with effect from 01.11.2006. The blending percentage in EBP was increased to 10% with effect from 02.01.2013. Central Government extended the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme to whole of India except island Union Territories of Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep with effect from 01.04.2019.

National Biofuel Policy - 2018 envisages an indicative target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol to be achieved by 2030. The ethanol blending depends on the availability of ethanol which further depends on availability of raw material for ethanol production viz., sugarcane, damaged foodgrains unfit for human consumption, etc. and supply demand scenario in other ethanol consuming sectors like potable alcohol, pharma, chemical, petrochemicals, etc.

Increase in prices of LPG

2044. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government has been continuously increasing the prices of non-subsidised LPG cylinder;
- (b) if so, the reasons to increase the price; and
- (c) how much and how many times the price has been increased?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The prices of petroleum products in the country are linked to the price of respective products in the international market. However, the Government continues to modulate the effective price to consumer for Subsidized Domestic LPG and the consumers get the product at subsidized rate.

(c) The price of non-subsidised Domestic LPG is available at the website of IOCL i.e. www.iocl.com.

Diversion of LPG

2045. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) agencies in the country, State/UT-wise;