

Reduction in import of crude oil

458. DR. BHAGWAT KARAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to formulate any project to reduce the import of crude oil and also a project for production of biofuel in view of surging prices of crude oil in international market;
- (b) if so, whether any system for the same is proposed in collaboration with any other country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the import of petroleum products during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes Sir. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has identified a basket of strategies *inter-alia* including primarily increasing domestic production of oil and gas and promoting biofuels/alternate fuels with a view to achieve reduction in import of crude oil. Government has also taken a number of initiatives to encourage the use of alternative fuels like ethanol and bio-diesel through Ethanol Blending in Petrol (EBP) Programme and Bio-diesel blending in diesel. Government has formulated a National Bio Fuel Policy 2018 to boost availability of biofuels in country. To give a major thrust to Ethanol Blending Programme, Oil CPSEs are establishing twelve 2G Ethanol plants across 11 States of the country.

(b) Government of India has joined International Energy Agency's Technology Collaboration Programme on Bioenergy (IEA Bioenergy TCP) on 25th January, 2019. This is an international platform for cooperation and information exchange among countries that have national programmes in bio-energy research, technology development, demonstration and policy analysis.

(c) The year-wise details of the import of petroleum products during the last three years is given below:—

Year	In Million Metric Tonnes	in ₹ crore
2017-18	35.5	88374
2018-19	33.3	113665
2019-20	43.3	126954
2020-21 (Apr-July) (P)	14.5	29640

P = Provisional