

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2059
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st March, 2022**

ETHANOL PRODUCTION

2059. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reason Government chose to use the Central food grain stock for ethanol production instead of using it in schemes like PM Gareeb Kalyan Yojana;
- (b) the measures Government has taken to ensure that ethanol production does not result in a reliance on crops like sugarcane and paddy which are water-intensive crops, especially in drought-ridden states; and
- (c) whether Government is aware of the fact that maize possibly becoming a major source of ethanol production could affect the poultry industry heavily and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM &
NATURAL GAS
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

(a) to (c): Government is already providing subsidized food grains to more than 80 crore beneficiaries across the country through 'PM Gareeb Kalyan Yojana'.

Government is also promoting Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme with broader objectives of providing boost to domestic agriculture sector, environment benefits, reducing import dependency and savings in foreign exchange. Ethanol from sugarcane route is not sufficient to achieve blending targets and for other uses. In view of surplus availability of food grains like maize and rice, ethanol from damaged food grains, maize and surplus rice with FCI has been allowed.

Government is encouraging farmers to diversify from water intensive crops like rice, sugarcane, etc. to more sustainable crops like maize. Further, National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is being implemented in the country for

increasing the production and productivity of food-grains including maize. Besides, State Governments have been requested to plan and promote maize cultivation by diverting rice/wheat area around distilleries through "special projects" under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) constituted under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary of State. Thus, Government aims to create a sustainable market for surplus maize beyond its consumption in the domestic poultry industry. Moreover, production of ethanol from grain like maize gives a co-product called Dried Distillers Grains with Solubles (DDGS), which is a very high source of protein and is also used as cattle feed/ poultry feed.
