

Reply to Parliament Question No 3162 for 27.03.2025 for Rajya Sabha regarding “Plastics and the circular economy” in respect of Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL):

Q no. (a): **whether Government has signed any agreement to enable downstream production of circular plastics and sustainable chemicals;**

Reply: Ministry to reply.

[NRL has undertaken several projects focused on sustainable fuels, including Green Hydrogen, Bioethanol, Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), and pilot-based coal gasification. Additionally, the company is exploring innovations such as utilizing cyanobacteria for bioremediation of hydrocarbon tank bottoms and effluent treatment plant sludge, as well as assessing wind energy potential in Northeast India using mobile Lidar technology. These initiatives are part of NRL's R&D commitment to supporting energy security and preparing for the energy transition.]

Q no. (b): **if so, the details thereof;**

Reply: Ministry to reply.

Q no. (c): **whether financial assistance has been provided to foster indigenous technological advancements in sustainability, if so, the details thereof;**

Reply: Ministry to reply.

[NRL is executing a bio-refinery project in the state of Assam through its Joint Venture Company Assam Bio Ethanol Pvt. Limited (ABEPL), which will produce 2G Ethanol along with platform chemicals Furfural and Acetic Acid. The project is also an initiative under NRL's sustainable fuel and Net Zero energy transition. The project has been granted of Rs. 150 crore by Central Govt. under Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN yojana.]

Q no. (d): **the steps taken to establish a self-reliant circular economy reducing reliance on imported crude oil and fostering employment generation?**

Reply: Ministry to reply.

[NRL in collaboration with OIL India planning to set up 25 CBG (Compressed Biogas) plants across the various districts of Assam and Northeast each at minimum 2TPD capacity supporting the govt's scheme SATAT and Gobardhan for alternate energy growth.

The product Compressed Biogas would be injected into the Natural Gas pipeline circuit. This NG would cater to meet city gas through the CGD network. And this will create additional LPG pool to divert to underserved rural areas. With this initiative, the distribution would extend clean fuel to meet this section of the community.]

Note for Supplementary:

Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) is a Public Sector Enterprise with a 3.0 MMTPA petroleum refinery at Numaligarh in Golaghat district of Assam. Present shareholding pattern of NRL is Oil India Limited (OIL) – 69.63%, Govt. of Assam (GoA) – 26% and Engineers India Ltd (EIL) – 4.37%.
