Reply to Parliament Question No 6634 for 24.03.2025 for Rajya Sabha regarding "Exports" in respect of Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL):

Q no. (a): **what is the impact of the 28.6% decline in petroleum product exports on the nation's trade balance and foreign exchange reserves;**

Reply: Ministry to reply.

[The details of exports and revenues earned by NRL from export of refined crude oil products during the last two years and current year is follows –

FY	Gas Oil			Paraffin Wax		
	Qty (TMT)	US$ in Mn	(Rs in Cr.)	Qty (TMT)	US$ in Mn	(RS in Cr.)
2022-23	50.34	48.8	393.03	0.19	0.28	2.24
2023-24	38.11	31.5	262.09	0.21	0.27	2.24
2024-25 (Apr-Feb)	70.13	48.6	410.45	0.23	0.29	2.46

]

Q no. (b): **the measures being implemented to enhance the competitiveness of India's petroleum exports in the global market, including any plans to diversify export destinations;**

Reply: Ministry to reply.

[Post expansion of Numaligarh Refinery from 3 to 9 MMTPA, additional product will be available for export to countries like Myanmar, Bangladesh and other South East Asian countries. The following initiatives have been undertaken by NRL to boost product export:

i. Bangladesh: A Sale Purchase Agreement was signed on 22nd October, 2017 between NRL and BPC for supply of Gas Oil for a period of 15 years, that may be extended through mutual consent. Pricing, commercial terms and conditions of Gas Oil export to Bangladesh shall be governed by the Sale Purchase Agreement.

   Currently, Gas Oil (High Speed Diesel) is being supplied from NRL's Siliguri Terminal to Parbatipur depot of Bangladesh through the India Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFPL). Post commissioning of the pipeline, NRL is now in a position to export 1 million metric tonnes of petroleum products annually.

   NRL has initiated discussion with Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation on a proposal of extending the IBFPL by around 145 km from Parbatipur to Natore / Rajshahi. This will cater to the demand of Gas Oil in Natore, Rajshahi, Harian, Bagabari and Bogra which is presently around 500 TMTPA. Extension of the pipeline will eliminate logistical bottlenecks currently faced in positioning Gas Oil from Chottogram to the Natore region besides resulting in reduction of freight cost. NRL has appointed a consultant for conducting feasibility studies for the pipeline extension proposal and is in constant discussion with Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation for taking the proposal forward.

NRL is also pursuing another proposal of supplying Gas Oil to Sylhet region in Bangladesh, initially by road through tank trucks across the Bholaganj and Sutarkandi international borders.

Further, there is significant potential to develop the Brahmaputra riverway as a strategic route for exporting petroleum and petrochemical products from the Northeast region of India to Bangladesh. This waterway development would provide an efficient and cost-effective transportation alternative, capitalizing on the geographical proximity between the Northeast region of India and Bangladesh.

ii. Myanmar: NRL is actively pursuing its plans to export diesel to Northern Myanmar utilising the Asian Highway-1 (Numaligarh-Moreh-Tamu Indo-Myanmar Friendship Road). A trial consignment of two tank trucks (40 Kilo Litres) was exported to Myanmar through this route in September, 2017. NRL has already signed sales agreement with local partners in Myanmar to enter the wholesale as well as Retail Market in Northern Myanmar. As an initial step towards penetrating the Myanmar market, NRL plans to build a storage depot at Tamu in collaboration with a local partner in that country.

Present Status:

- Subsequent to the political turmoil during Feb 2021, NRL has not been able to export any HSD or Paraffin Wax to Myanmar.
- A meeting over VC was done with DENKO Officials during May 2024 for export of HSD from Numaligarh Refinery to Yangon through Haldia Port. NRL had provided the price quote and other terms of supply to DENKO but the proposal has not materialised.

iii. Bhutan: NRL is exporting to Bhutan through BPCL. Future plans to increase exports to Bhutan are pursued.

Q no. (c): **what steps are being taken to address the increase 2.2% increase in imports and the strategies in place to reduce dependency on imported crude oil; and**

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). NRL owns 50% share in the company and remaining 50% equity is shared between two M/s Fortum BV3 and M/s Chempolis. M/s Chempolis is also the technology provider for the bio-refinery. Bio-refinery will produce 50 TMTPA of Advance bio-fuel (ethanol) from 300 TMTPA of dry bamboo. The project has been granted of Rs. 150 crore by Central Govt. under Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN yojana. The first trial run has been conducted successfully to establish conversion of bamboo to alcohol. During the trial run, bamboo was successfully processed through the digestor, bamboo washing section, enzymatic hydrolysis and fermentation sections. The 2G bio-ethanol project at Numaligarh is set to become fully operational by the first quarter of 2025-26. It is envisaged that Ethanol will substitute petrol to the same extent and thereby reduce import of crude required for production of petrol in the country.]

Q no. (d): **details of plans to collaborate with other governmental bodies to mitigate the widening trade deficit attributed to the petroleum sector?**

Reply: Ministry to reply.

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%.

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