

Reply to Parliament Question No 2538 for 10.03.2025 for Rajya Sabha regarding “Integrating Biofuel processing within existing Refineries” in respect of Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL):

Q no. (a): whether the Govt. plans to allow biodiesel to be processed alongside traditional crude oil at the Indian oil refineries, in order to facilitate the country’s ambitions for a 5 per cent biodiesel blend by 2030;

Reply: Ministry to reply.

[NRL is not currently producing any biofuel/ biodiesel, hence, the query is not applicable to NRL.]

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

Reply: Ministry to reply.

[Not applicable to NRL in view of reply ‘a’ above.]

Q no. (c): if not, the reasons therefor;

Reply: Ministry to reply.

[Not applicable to NRL in view of reply ‘a’ above.]

Q no. (d): the plausible benefits and challenges in this respect; and

Reply: Ministry to reply.

Q no. (e): the proposed measures to be taken therefor?

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%.

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 digester, 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.
