

Reply to Parliament Question No 3977 for 19.12.2024 for Lok Sabha regarding “Growth of Bioenergy Sector” in respect of Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL):

Q no. (a): the policies and incentives provided by the Government to further accelerate the growth of bioenergy sector, particularly targets set for 2025 with regard to ethanol blending;

Reply: Ministry to reply.

[NRL is executing a 2G 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 JV company – ABEPL and remaining 50% equity is shared between two Finnish companies viz. M/s Fortum BV3 of Netherland and M/s Chempolis Oy of Finland. The project is being supported under Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN yojana. Under Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN yojana, a grant of Rs. 150 Crores has been sanctioned for the project by Central Govt.]

Q no. (b): the measures undertaken by the Government of India to engage and educate farmers and local communities about the benefits of transitioning to bio energy along with the extent to which such participation would be facilitated in this transformation;

Reply: Ministry to reply.

[The bio-refinery project aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, decrease crude oil import dependency, save foreign exchange, provide income to marginal farmers, and create local employment. The 2G bio-refinery in Northeast India will utilize the region's abundant bamboo, offering income opportunities for farmers and jobs in bamboo handling. ABEPL is securing long-term bamboo supply agreements with growers and developing bamboo-rich clusters near the project. Over 50 small-scale chipping units involving local entrepreneurs will be established for processing and storage. The model emphasizes direct procurement to protect farmers from middlemen and employs a digital supply chain for transparency and efficiency.]

Q no. (c): the aims and objectives of the scheme being formulated by the Government to enact a new legislation in respect of offshore oil exploration;

Reply: Ministry to reply.

Q no. (d): the manner in which this new legislation is likely to affect such sectors which were previously designated as no-go zones for oil exploration;

Reply: Ministry to reply.

Q no. (e): whether the Government has any strategy to promote second generation (2G) bioethanol plants and advanced biofuels and if so, the details thereof; and

Reply: Ministry to reply.

[NRL's bio ethanol project has been granted of Rs. 150 crore by Central Govt. under Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN yojana.]

Q no. (f): the role of bioenergy in meeting India's climate commitments under Paris agreement?

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%.
