GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 314
ANSWERED ON 19TH JULY, 2018

COAL BASED METHANOL AS ALTERNATIVE FUEL FOR VEHICLES

314.   DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is working on a proposal to run diesel guzzling heavy commercial vehicles like trucks and buses on coal based methanol;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the purpose behind the move;
(c) whether running commercial vehicles on coal based methanol is cost effective, if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the Government has shortlisted the potential districts for setting up of coal based methanol plants in the country; and
(e) the time by which these coal based methanol plants are likely to be set up and made operational?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a) and (b) NITI Aayog has set up an Apex Committee and five Task Forces for carrying out R&D and developing roadmap for implementing Methanol Economy in India. Task Force on Production of Methanol using High Ash Coal is one of them. The Government has notified G.S.R 490(E) dated 24.05.2018 regarding Mass emission standards for flex-fuel Methanol M15 or M100 and Methanol MD 95 vehicles.

(c)   India imported 212.7 Million Tons of Crude oil in 2016-2017. It is estimated that a 15% methanol blending can result in replacement of around 31.9 million tons of crude oil. With crude oil price of 54 $ per barrel it can result in significant savings for India. Further the CO and HC emission reduction for M 15 as compared to neat gasoline by approximate 40 % is an added benefit. Further CO_2 and evaporative emission benefits are also envisaged.

(d)   No, Madam.

(e)   No timelines have been fixed as the work is in preliminary stage.

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