

## **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways**

### **Government seeks public comments on introducing adoption of E20 Fuel**

**December 18, 2020**

Relevant to M&M Auto

#### **Background**

- The National Biofuel Coordination Committee has allowed surplus rice that is available with the Food Corporation of India to be converted into ethanol. This shall be used to make alcohol based hand sanitizer and also in blending with the petrol.
- The EBP (Ethanol Blended Programme) programme was launched in 2003 to promote the blending of Ethanol in petrol. The program also aimed to address environmental concerns due to fossil fuel burning, reduce crude imports, provide remuneration to farmers and achieve Forex savings .
- In 2018, the National Policy on Biofuels was launched. It envisages that during an agriculture crop year, if the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare anticipates that there will be an oversupply of food grains, the policy will allow conversion of this surplus quantity into ethanol. However, in order to achieve this an approval from the National Biofuel Coordination Committee is required.

#### **What is the E-20 Fuel and its benefits?**

- E20 means blending of 20% of Ethanol with gasoline. Currently the permissible level of blending is 10% of Ethanol in India.
- In 2019 in spite of the permissible level India reached only 5.6 % of blending.
- Benefits include reduction in vehicular emission
- It reduces oil import bill and therefore saves foreign exchange boosting energy security of the country.
- It reduces emissions of Hydrocarbons and carbon dioxide.

#### **Why is GoI pushing for it?**

- The notification facilitates the development of E20 compliant vehicles. It will also help in reducing emissions of carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons, etc. It will help reduce the oil import bill, thereby saving foreign exchange and boosting energy security.
- The compatibility of the vehicle to the percentage of ethanol in the blend of ethanol and gasoline shall be defined by the vehicle manufacturer and the same shall be displayed on the vehicle by putting a clearly visible sticker.

### For Further Reading

1. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1681730>
2. <https://www.gktoday.in/current-affairs/what-is-e20-fuel/>
3. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/govts-ethanol-push-prompts-sugar-mills-to-raise-production/articleshow/79461593.cms?from=mdr#:~:text=Recently%2C%20the%20Union%20government%20had,blended%20with%20petrol%20and%20diesel.&text=The%20Centre%20has%20floated%20tenders,be%20blended%20with%20vehicle%20fuel.>
4. <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/maharashtra-sugar-mills-in-state-set-to-step-up-ethanol-production-7098751/>