

June 22, 2016

To,
The Editor,
Business Line,
New Delhi.

Sub: Inaccurate data and facts in an article on ethanol blending.

Dear Sir,

An article titled "*Ethanol blending programme could just run out of fuel*" appeared in your Delhi edition newspaper filed by Shri Rahul Wadke from Mumbai, on 22nd June, 2016. There are several factual inaccuracies and seems to have been written without enough research, and unfortunately without speaking to either the sugar industry who are the suppliers, or the OMCs, who are the buyers of ethanol.

2. Details about the ethanol blending programme are in the public domain, and several newspapers, including yours, have on many occasions, correctly reported / written about the ethanol blending programme. Despite that, it's surprising to see this article, which lacks correct facts/ figures and distorts the reality of the programme, to suggest that the programme will get derailed.

3. During the current season, sugar mills/ethanol manufacturers have contracted for supply of 130 crore litres of ethanol, out of which the OMCs have already lifted 58 crore litres. Instead of highlighting this to establish that the country will achieve 5% ethanol blending with petrol, the Correspondent has written that the OMCs had floated EOIs for 91 crore litres of ethanol in February, adding that, against that, the response was tepid. Kindly note that by February 2016, the ethanol suppliers had already contracted for 113 crore litres, and therefore to state that response of supplies was tepid for 91 crore litres is inaccurate and cannot be appreciated, especially when so many Correspondents have highlighted this earlier. Your newspaper also carried an article quoting the Hon'ble Minister for Petroleum Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan with some facts and figure, on 11th February, 2016. There is enough ethanol to ensure that the blending programme is not just running, but sprinting in the current year. From 24 crore litres of ethanol supplies in 2013-14, the supplies went up to 67 crore litres in 2014-15. Thereafter, the contracts signed for 2015-16 is almost double to that of last year.

4. In the case of Maharashtra, he has written that against 35 crore litres of contracts, supplies have been for only 11 crore litres. The correct figure till 21st June is 15.28 crore litres. However he has failed to mention that the suppliers have another over 5 months to supply the balance of about 20 crore litres till November 2016, giving a wrong understanding of the supply position.

