

ISMA/472 /2015-16

15th February 2016

To
The Editor
Times of India
New Delhi

Subject: Serious mistakes in the Article of Mr. Swaminathan S. Anklesaria Aiyar on "Bio-fuels", which appeared on 14th February 2016.

Sir,

This is in reference to the article by Mr. Swaminathan S Anklesaria Aiyar titled "Time to shift gears: scrap biofuels, go for solar power instead", which appeared in the Sunday Times on 14th February 2016 in your Delhi edition at Page No. 24.

2. There are several factual inaccuracies in the article which are misleading and can harm the use of green renewable fuel, produced from a by-product of sugarcane. On behalf of the Indian sugar industry, I am giving the correct facts with a request to put it in your newspaper so that the readers are aware of the correct position and not misled to have a wrong notion about such an important bio-fuel, which is so vital for a country like India, having the potential to reduce net oil import bill as well as help in reducing environmental pollution and give better revenues to our sugarcane farmers in the country:-

- (a) Mr. Aiyar has stated that the Government mandated that all petrol should contain 5% ethanol in selected States in 2001. The first time that the Government ever mandated ethanol blending with petrol was in October 2007 and not in 2001.
- (b) The Expression of Interests (EoIs) invited by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in January 2016, consequent to the NDA Government's decision in December 2014 to have a fixed pricing policy, was for blending ethanol with petrol at an average of 5% blending across the country and 10% in only 6 States. Mr. Aiyar's suggestion that 10% blending was made effective by the NDA Government from 2014 itself, is incorrect. In fact, the first time that

