

Minister – P&NG Speech Dedication of EURO -4 Petrol Production Facilities to the Nation – 17th January, 2010 at HPCL’s Refinery at Chembur, Mumbai

- Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of Environment & Forests;
- Members of Parliament Shri Eknath Gaikwad, Shri Milind Deora,, Shri Sanjay Patil, Shri Kripa Shankar Singh, President MRCC and Shri Nawab Malik, MLA;
- Esteemed guests and friends from media.

First of all I would like to extend my best wishes for the New Year.

2. It gives me immense pleasure to be here on the occasion of Dedication of HPCL’s EURO-4 Petrol Production Facilities to the Nation.

3. As you are all aware today worldwide the focus is on bringing qualitative change in the environment for saving this earth from scourge of pollution caused by Green House Gases(GHG), emissions from vehicles, excessive use of coal and other sources of energy etc. At the recently concluded Global Climate Summit at Copenhagen, the stress was solely on controlling global warming caused by these harmful emissions. No doubt developments around the world also affect us. India has already taken adequate measures to meet this enormous challenge including improving the auto fuel quality to meet the world standards.

4. Indian economy has witnessed sustained growth of 8-9% in the last few years. It is one of the fastest growing economy in the world and is tipped to be one of emerging global economic power in future. Economic development has given people more purchasing power. As a result, India has witnessed the big surge in the sale of automobiles. With increase in vehicular population in the country, the demand of autofuels have also increased phenomenally. But this also has its disadvantages. Increase number of vehicles on the roads means more carbon and other harmful emissions by burning of hydrocarbon fuels. This is the single largest factor of environmental pollution in our cities and other urban areas. It is important that development and environmental protection shall go hand in hand.

5. In order to address this issue, Government had constituted a Committee of Experts in September 2001 under the Chairmanship of Dr.R.A.Mashelkar, the then Director General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) to recommend an Auto Fuel Policy for the country to devise a road map for improving the auto fuel quality. As a result of recommendations of the Expert Committee, Government of India formulated Auto Fuel Policy in 2003. The policy aims to comprehensively and holistically address the issues of vehicular emissions, vehicular technologies and auto fuel quality in a cost efficient manner while ensuring the security of fuel supply. It is our endeavour to ensure sustainable, safe, affordable and uninterrupted supplies of auto fuels of right quality to support social and economic development.

6. In order to reduce environmental pollution, in Delhi and Mumbai, the entire transport sector which consist of buses, taxis and autorickshaws have been converted to CNG. This single step has made qualitative difference in the air quality in these two cities. Government has formulated a policy to cover more and more cities with natural gas network. However, with increasing vehicular population in the country the demand for auto fuels has increased manifold. Therefore, it is important that our effort should also be to provide improved quality of auto fuels meeting world standards to our customers.

7. Petroleum products will continue to occupy a dominant position in meeting the energy requirements of our country before we switch to other alternative sources of energy. It is, therefore, important that appropriate regulations be put in place for ensuring that India meets globally accepted environment norms. At the same time, it is incumbent upon the oil industry to keep upgrading their technology and processes so as to provide the nation the cleanest possible sources of energy.

8. It is proposed to introduce Euro-4 petrol in 13 Mega cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmadabad etc.

9. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd(HPCL) is one leading oil refining and marketing company in the country. In order to meet the above objective towards a greener environment as envisaged in Auto Fuel Policy, HPCL's Mumbai Refinery undertook, "Green Fuel and Emission Control Project(GFEC)". The total cost of the project is Rs.1731 crore for upgradation of petrol quality to meet Euro-4 specifications.

10. With dedication of HPCL's Mumbai Refinery EURO-4 Project today, we have fulfilled the commitment towards supplying cleaner fuel as envisaged in the Policy. I extend my compliments to HPCL on this landmark achievement.

11. Indian refineries have been performing well in contributing to the domestic availability of sensitive petroleum products as well as in exports. The total installed capacity of refineries has increased to 177.97 MMTPA. Exports of petroleum products continue to be the single largest merchandise exports from India. The new refineries at Bhatinda, Paradip and Bina would further augment the domestic refinery capacity making India as major refinery hub in South Asia.

12. Our Oil PSUs have capability to meet any technological challenge posed before them. I am confident that they will continue to display the same ingenuity and innovativeness in future also. Technological upgradation requires huge investments. The Indian Petroleum industry has made considerable investment to upgrade both Petrol & Diesel. The underlying driving force being the desire to enhance quality of life by progressively improving product standards to ensure a cleaner and greener India.

13. I am sure that other refineries in India will soon commission their production facilities to supply petrol and diesel as per standards laid down in Auto Fuel Policy.

14. I would like to thank my friend Mr.Jairam Ramesh for his gracious presence on the occasion of dedication of Euro-4 petrol project. Also, I would again like to compliment HPCL for this landmark achievement.

Thank You.

Jai Hind.