

Ethanol in diesel fails safety test

New Delhi: Ethanol-blended diesel failed required safety specifications because the addition of ethanol sharply lowered the fuel's flash point, minister of state for petroleum and natural gas Suresh Gopi said in a written reply to Parliament, effectively ruling out the fuel for wider use unless the technical issue is resolved.

Public-sector oil marketing companies conducted scientific evaluations of ethanol blending with diesel through their research and development centres, in collaboration with accredited laboratories and automobile manufacturers.

The finding comes as India seeks to expand the use of eth-



LOWER FLASH POINT

anol as a transport fuel and explore new outlets for rising domestic production. The government has so far focused its ethanol blending programme on petrol and has set a target of 20 per cent blending.

On blending isobutanol in diesel, the minister said, "Isobutanol is not being blended with diesel."

Meanwhile, India is considering restricting the amount of sugarcane used for ethanol in the season beginning October to boost sugar output and try to calm record prices, two government and two industry sources told Reuters. PTI and Reuters