

SPEECH FOR THE HON'BLE GOVERNOR FOR
SAKSHAM 2019 ON 16 JANUARY, 2019

NAMASKAR..

Respected dignitaries present here, officers and other staff of Indian Oil Corporation Limited, different stake holders present here, media friends, ladies and gentlemen. First of all please allow me to convey my best wishes to you all on the occasion of Bhogali Bihu. We observe Bhogali Bihu to celebrate our prosperities. Our prosperity has its cascading effect and we can see its ripples all around.

Today under the visionary leadership of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji we are envisaging double digit economic growth for the country. Along with this double digit economic growth, our energy demand is also rising by leaps and bounds. However, it should be understood in perspective that the country's source of energy basket which principally constitutes crude oil and which is extracted from on-shore and off-shore supply, is diminishing at a fast rate. While we are recognizing and adopting measures to increase our dependency on renewable energy sources, the demand for petroleum products however is growing very fast. In view of this, possibilities on switching on to alternative energy sources like atomic energy, solar energy, tidal energy, wind energy should be looked into.

Taking into consideration of the abundant availability of these un-tapped unconventional sources of energy, there should be extensive research for using these energy as an alternative to petrol.

We should all know that India has huge deficit in crude oil production level compared to its consumption pattern. As per figures of 2017-18, the country consumed about 201.9 million metric tons (MMT) of petroleum products and the Indian Refineries processed about 251.9 MMT of crude oil against an installed combined capacity of 230 million metric tons per annum. In this context, this should be borne into mind that our crude oil production was merely 32 MMT in the same year. Thus we are depending heavily on import of crude oil to the extent of little over 88 per cent of our overall requirement for meeting the energy demand of the country.

The sharp rise and volatility of prices of crude oil in the international markets since 2004 has become a matter of global concern. Import of crude oil during 2017-18 was 219.15 MMT valued at about Rs 5.65 lakh Crore.

Our country's import bill has traditionally been high and always dependent on various factors like global crude oil prices, rupee depreciation as well as rise in domestic consumption.

Hence, it has become imperative for us to devise ways and means of reducing our dependency on imported energy.

Consequently, the Government has formulated various plans and strategies to enhance availability of proprietary oil & gas, both from within and outside the country. Initiatives such as Ethanol Blended Petrol and Jatropha based Bio-Diesel are being promoted to decrease our dependency on consumption of fossil fuels. Alongside these initiatives, which are yielding substantial benefits, energy conservation efforts need to be intensified to make the whole country more energy efficient than ever before.

Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Govt. of India has been actively associated in promoting energy conservation efforts in the country since 1978. Over the past 30 years PCRA has helped consumers in different sectors such as Transport, Industry, Agriculture and household to realize energy conservation to a great extent.

It is heartening that PCRA as well as other stake holders are taking some pragmatic steps to devise modalities to really conserve petrol and reduce its excessive use. In this context let me take the freedom to refer to the innovation of LED lights which have

resulted in saving electricity phenomenally while meeting the electricity needs to almost all the consumers of our nation.

On this occasion we need to take pledge to really enable us to make this one month long awareness campaign bear fruits in our conservation efforts. I think we really need social auditing to know how much this kind of awareness campaign reaped benefits for us to save petrol and enable the end users to use unconventional sources of energy. Otherwise observation of this month-long awareness campaign will merely remain a formality alone without designing any concrete steps for the conservation of energy.

Nevertheless, it is matter of great pleasure that PCRA and Public Sector Oil and Gas companies will be undertaking intensive conservation awareness campaigns among the masses throughout the country from today that is 16th Jan 2019 through a month-long campaign namely **सक्षम (संरक्षण क्षमता महोत्सव)-2019**. I appeal to all concerned to actively participate in this great cause and transmit this campaign into our way of life by inculcating various small habits such as judiciously using petrol. I hope **सक्षम -2019** will go a long way in initiating a campaign against rampant and unwise use of petrol and petroleum products.

I am happy to inaugurate this month-long awareness campaign namely **संरक्षण क्षमता महोत्सव-2019** or **सक्षम-2019** for the

State of Assam today. I compliment the entire Oil Industry for organizing “सक्षम -2019” and wish it a grand success.

Thank you...Jai Hind