National Auto Fuel Policy, 2015

- The **Auto Fuel Policy, 2003** aims at addressing issues of *vehicular emissions* and *vehicular technologies* by applying *fuel quality standards*.
- An Expert Committee under the chairmanship of **Mr. Saumitra Chaudhari** was set up to review the Auto Fuel Policy, 2003.
- Further, the objective of the Expert Committee was to draw a roadmap for the **auto fuel quality till 2025**. The Standing Committee made observations and recommendations on the Expert Committee report and the Auto Fuel Policy, 2003.
- In order to achieve the **unified fuel norm**, the Ministry should implement the less polluting **Bharat Stage (BS)-IV** quality of fuel standard across the country by **2017**.
- Further, the Standing Committee recommends the implementation of the **BS-VI quality of fuel standard by 2020**.
- Some public sector refineries do not produce BS-IV quality of fuel. Hence, the Standing Committee recommends all refineries be upgraded in a phase wise manner to produce BS-IV quality of fuel.
- The Expert Committee recommended levying a **high sulphur cess** on high polluting **BS-III automotive fuels**.
- The Expert Committee also recommended a **special fuel up-gradation Cess** on all **gasoline and diesel** sold.
- The Standing Committee recommends the **Ministry to decide on the levy of cess** at the earliest. The sum generated must be utilised for fuel up-gradation projects.
- As fossil fuel reserves are depleting, the Ministry must assess the commercial viability of non-conventional fuels.
- In terms of usage, the share of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is low. Therefore, the Standing Committee recommends the Ministry to give **high priority** to coverage of more areas **under CNG**.
- The establishment of a **centralised national data centre** for collecting information regarding **polluting vehicles** is recommended. In order to achieve this objective, if required, formulating a plan scheme and specific fund allocation has been recommended by the Standing Committee.
- The constitution of an **inter-ministerial committee of secretaries** of the concerned Ministries is required.
- The **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas is the nodal agency** and is expected to constitute the same.
- The Inspection and Maintenance System that enhances the safety and emission performance of vehicles has not been implemented. Therefore, it is recommended that the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas impresses upon the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to implement the same.
- Formulation of a **vehicle retirement policy** will improve air quality.
- The Ministry should apply the provisions under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to formulate an **age limit for retirement of vehicles**.