

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, August 13, 1991/Sravana 22,
1913 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock
[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Complaint Regarding Short Measuring of Petrol

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* 407 SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND

NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints regarding short measuring of petrol by petrol pump dealers received during January to June, 1991, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check such cases?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-
ANAND): (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on
the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) 32 complaints regarding short measurement of petrol by petrol pump dealers were received during January-June, 1991. The States/UT-wise break-up is as follows :-

States/UTS

Total No. Of Complaints
For Short Measurement

Uttar Pradesh	15
Delhi	4
West Bengal	2
Karnataka	1
Punjab	2
Madhya Pradesh	3
Bihar	2
Rajasthan	3
	32

(b) Regular and surprise inspections are conducted by Oil Companies and Weights & Measures authorities of the State Governments to check such malpractices.

[*Translation*]

SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, complaints regarding short-measurement of petrol by petrol pump dealers are made every now and then. For this reason bickerings usually take place at petrol pumps. But the owners of these pumps do not bother and continue to indulge in malpractices such as short measurement of petrol and black-marketing. In this way, the owners of the two wheelers and three wheelers suffer heavy losses and the petrol pump dealers make money. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the action taken so far on each complaint regarding short-measurement of petrol made in the current year in Delhi against petrol pump dealers. Is there any future scheme to check arbitrariness by petrol pump dealers?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please give the answer in an analysed form, not each and everything.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The hon. Member has raised a very relevant question. It is a fact that some petrol dealers are indulging in malpractices and they are making money at the cost of the consumers.

I agree with the hon. Member who has put this question that action should be taken against them. I share his concern for such malpractices.

About 32 complaints were received during January and June, 1991 by the Central Government and four oil marketing companies regarding short-measurement of petrol.

All the complaints were investigated and the break-up, as I can see, is as follows:-

One is, recalibration was done with regard to 10 petrol dealers.

In 16 cases, the complaints were not established.

In one case, seal was broken and supplies were suspended.

In another case, there was a mechanical failure.

In one case, sales were suspended, pending recalibration.

There are many matters and with the market guidelines, inspections are conducted both by the oil companies and also the Weights and Measures Authorities under the State and, necessary action, as under the guidelines, is taken against those indulging in malpractices.

[*Translation*]

SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Since the total number of complaints is 32 and there are four oil corporations in the country, I would like to know the names of the firms indulged in such malpractices. What action has been taken against the petrol pump dealers who have been found guilty?

[*English*]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : At the moment, I do not have the information. I will supply the information to the hon. Member.

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: The hon. Minister has given figures from January to June, 1991. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government has received any further complaints following the recent price revision of petrol and petroleum products consequent to the Budget proposals of 1991-92; and whether the petrol pump owners are mixing kerosene with petrol before its distribution.

In view of the vast disparities in the prices of these two commodities, what steps

are being taken to prevent the large-scale adulteration to the detriment of the consumers?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: There has been a general complaint like this. In view of the wide difference between kerosene and petrol, the petrol dealers are indulging in malpractices and adulterating petrol and making money. Now, the hon. Member has put this question. But at the moment we have not received any complaint with regard to this. If the hon. Member has any complaint, he may kindly pass it on to me so that we can take action.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI N PATHAK: Sir, as the hon. Minister has stated, complaints regarding short measurement of petrol have been received. Through you, I would like to know from him as to how many such complaints have been received in Gujarat during the period of three months between January and March, 1991 and what action has been taken thereon by the Government?

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: The hon. Minister has stated that 32 complaints regarding the short-measurement of petrol by the petrol dealers have been received during the last six months. I would like to know the names of those dealers against whom these complaints have been received. I would also like to know the action taken on that in detail?
.....(Interruptions).....

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, he has stated in his reply that 32 complaints have been received in this regard. Who are those 32 dealers?.....(Interruptions).....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He will inform you in writing.

[Translation]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has stated in his reply that these com-

plaints have been received only from 5 or 6 States in entire country. Should we suppose that no complaints has been made in the rest of the States? If so, how many complaints have been received from Maharashtra in this regard and what action has been taken thereon?

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The House may kindly appreciate that this question is particularly with reference to the number of complaints regarding short measuring of petrol by petrol pump dealers. This is only with reference to short measuring and no other part of it. There are many types of malpractices which the petrol dealers indulge in. May I request hon. Members to give separate notices for these questions?

[Translation]

Airports in Rajasthan

*410. **PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places where the Government propose to construct airports with a view to promote tourism in Rajasthan and the names of the projects which are under consideration of the Government; and

(b) the progress made so far in the construction of Ajmer Airport?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI M. O. H. FAROOK): (a) and (b). The National Airports Authority is acutely short of financial resources and it is not in a position to take up the construction of any new airport.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, through you I would like to say that the reply