

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2151

ANSWERED ON:18.03.2002

PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT FROM ADULTERATED FUEL

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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has conducted any study regarding adulteration of fuel;
- (b) if so, the main findings thereof;
- (c) the measures suggested by the CSE in this regard;
- (d) the response of Oil companies on the suggestions made by CSE; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to protect environment from the damage caused by adulterated fuel?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has carried out a random inspection of fuel quality at the fuel dispensing stations, oil depots and tank lorries in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi and the National Capital Region.

(b) CSE analyzed fuel quality inspection data and reported 26% failure rate of petrol samples subjected to adulteration test, testing methods designed for fuel quality monitoring were inadequate to detect adulteration and reduced level of sulphur content in petrol from oil depots and retail outlets when compared to the levels from refineries.

(c)&(d) CSE has made certain suggestions in regard to the sampling and testing procedures, quality specifications, etc. for petrol and diesel and has stated that the current quality specifications and the testing methods are not adequate. CSE's observations/conclusions are not acceptable to the oil companies due to the following reasons:

(i) The specifications of petrol and diesel adopted in the country, including NCT/NCR, are based on the specifications adopted elsewhere in the world, particularly in the European Union. The specifications of petrol and diesel world over are prescribed by laying down the maximum and the minimum limits for certain parameters and a range for certain other parameters. Indian specifications follow the same practice.

(ii) The testing methods adopted in the country are the same as used elsewhere in the world, including the developed countries.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to protect environment from the damage caused by adulterated fuel include the following:

- The oil companies have been required to take steps like filter paper test, density checks, blue dyeing of Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene, fural doping of PDS kerosene, regular/surprise inspections of retail outlets, joint inspection of retail outlets by the industry teams, regular/surprise inspections by mobile laboratories, special vigilance drives etc.

- State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been advised from time to time to take a number of measures to prevent diversion of PDS kerosene.

- The Motor Spirit/High Speed Diesel Control Order has since been amended by promulgating the Motor Spirit/ High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply & Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 1998 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

- The Kerosene Control Order was amended in October,1998 making it mandatory for the parallel marketers to file end-use certificates from their industrial customers and the customer-wise sales, with the State Governments on a quarterly basis.

- Naphtha (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobiles) Order, 2000 and Solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobiles) Order, 2000 have been notified .

- Directions have been issued for joint inspections and lifting of samples from diesel retail outlets in the NCT by the joint teams of the Central Government and the Government of NCT of Delhi.

- Other measures undertaken to check adulteration of petrol and diesel include sealing of tank trucks with security locks, increasing the number of mobile laboratories, evolving new sampling procedure, establishment of Anti Adulteration Cell under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, etc.
- One independent fuel testing laboratory has been commissioned at Noida.