

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

**Monday, August 11, 1997/Shravana 20, 1919 (Saka)**

*The Lok Sabha met at Four Minutes Past  
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

#### WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM TURKEY

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of this House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Mustafa Kalemli, Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly and Mr. Sayin Nihan Ilgun, Member of Parliament who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The Delegation arrived Delhi today early morning. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Parliament and the friendly people of the Republic of Turkey.

11.05 hrs.

#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

#### Sale of Sub-Standard Diesel Oil

\*261. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :  
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHA: CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding the sale of sub-standard and adulterated diesel oil on the petrol pumps of Delhi; and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received during the last two years and till date alongwith the names of the petrol pumps; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against these petrol pumps ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) to (c) Complaints, although very few, are received by the Government about irregularities by Retail Outlets including complaints regarding sale of sub-standard and adulterated Diesel Oil at the Petrol Pumps of Delhi as well as other parts of the country. In order to curb such malpractice and irregularities, the Oil Industry has evolved "Marketing Discipline Guidelines" (MDG) with the approval of the Government. Under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines, regular and surprise inspections are carried out by the field officials of the Oil Companies, Joint Industry Teams and Mobile Laboratories. Density checks under the MS/HSD Control Order and Furfural doping of Kerosene are done to check adulteration of Petrol and Diesel. Inseptions are also conducted by officials of the State Governments' Enforcement Agencies under the powers given under MS/HSD Control Order, 1990 issued under Essential Commodities Act. The Oil Companies conducted an All India Surprise Inspection Campaign during the month of December 1996 and January 1997. Another inspection drive is under progress presently in the country to check malpractice and violations of Marketing Discipline Guidelines for Kerosene, LPG, Petrol, Diesel and LDO throughout the country, which started on 21.7.97 and would end on 20.8.97.

Complaints, if received by the Government are forwarded to the Oil Companies, officials for inquiry and prompt action. In proven cases of adulteration, black-marketing and other irregularities, disciplinary action is taken such as issue of warning, suspension of sales and supplies, imposition of fines and termination of the dealerships/distributorships, under Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a Resolution was passed in Parliament that the roads and National Highways in the country are in very bad condition and a cess at the rate of five paise per litre on diesel and at the rate of ten paise per litre on petrol should be levied for improving their condition and constructing new roads. But this proposal was not implemented. Cess was imposed on oil and an Oil Industry Development Board was set up. But this is also not functioning effectively

to improve the present condition of diesel and petrol. Consequently, the consumers are being fleeced. Every year diesel run vehicles worth Rs. 3000 crore such as trucks, tractors, motor cars and the motors used for irrigation purpose are getting damaged. Due to adulteration of diesel, a heavy loss is being suffered.

I would like to know the measures being taken by the Government to prevent adulteration of diesel and petroleum products. The measures mentioned are ornamental and ceremonial. Certain effective measures need to be taken in this connection. Therefore, I would like to know whether inter-alia any plan for awarding deterrent punishment and taking effective steps has been chalked out by the Government.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, wherever the adulteration of diesel with Kerosene is detected, fine is imposed for the first time. If the adulteration is detected second time also, the amount of the fine is doubled and if the person involved in adulteration does not stop it, his dealership is brought under suspension. The concerned department takes action on its own and action is taken after receiving the complaint and detecting the adulteration.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has again read out his ornamental reply. The hon. Minister ceases to be, what he had been earlier. Before he become a Minister, he was a great revolutionary and he used to have thorough studies of issues very deftly. But I would like know the number of cases registered and in which action has been taken ? Were any efforts or attempts made to compensate unsuspecting consumers who were cheated ? Lastly, I would like to add this point that complaints have been received that the adulteration has been detected in the pipeline through which diesel is supplied. Has the hon. Minister paid attention towards these complaints ? If so, what action was taken in this regard ? What action has been taken to prevent adulteration in the pipeline through which diesel is supplied ?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Member that there has been no adulteration through pipeline. This year, 82 thousand tests were conducted and in 680 cases irregularities were detected, and out of them 146 cases of adulteration were detected. We have suspended the supply in respect of 373 dealerships for one or two months and have sought explanation in 247 cases and warning has been issued to them.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : It is a big national crime. Therefore, something more should be done in this regard. Kerosene is being adulterated with

Bitumen.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It is good that the hon. Minister has mentioned in his reply that certain inquiries have been continuously going on to ascertain as to whether or not marketing discipline guidelines are adhered to from 21st July to 20th August. Is the hon. Minister not aware of the fact that adulteration in kerosene, petrol and diesel has been going on in Gujarat, Mumbai and Maharashtra and a mafia gang is behind it ? All high officials of the oil companies are hands in gloves with this gang. Their network is so strong that two years back they had hired professional killers to kill the Minister of Civil Supplies of the Gujarat state simply because he had taken initiative to prevent persons from adulteration ? I am referring the names of these two states only. I referred Mumbai only because it has a big mafia gang centre. If somebody complains, his life is in danger all the time. Would the hon. Minister make special efforts to take action against the high officials of oil companies to the lowest rung of the members of the mafia gangs ? It is not the question of a pump only but of the terror of the mafia gang. Would he take any action in this regard ?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Hon'ble Member has not only blamed the pump but the entire system. But I assure that no officer irrespective of his standing will be spared, even I myself will not be spared if I am found guilty.

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the reasons for malpractices in selling diesel and petroleum is the small number of dealers or distributors existing in the country. So, there is no fair competition. That is why, the buyers are compelled to buy these materials from those dealers. May I know from the Minister whether the Ministry is prepared to give more number of distributorships so that there can be a fair competition ?

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has taken a decision to increase the number of dealership. Sir, it is not correct to say that due to shortage of dealership kerosene is admixed in the diesel and vice-versa and kerosene oil is not available in time. But admixing is done because of parity between the sale of kerosene and diesel. The price of kerosene has been reduced because it is meant for the poor people and any Government concerned with the welfare of the people takes such a decision. The price of diesel is higher. Even in Delhi there is a difference of Rs. 8 and Rs. 2.50. It is difficult to put a check on the process involved in the making of the society these days but the Government will try to deal with the matter strictly.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell you for the kind information of the Minister that I was going to Surat from Mumbai on 27th May, 1997 and I purchased diesel from a petrol pump. There was considerable admixing of kerosine in diesel. I got registered a complaint against the same. Not only that I called the police as well. There a punchnama was filed and the oil was tested also. There is such kind of admixing at many petrol pumps. Your camp system which is being run under your guidance, there carries a sign board that it will function from 21st July to 20th August. If you provide them such information before hand, there would be no admixing. You may come with me and we will visit many petrol pumps along the road to Mumbai and upto Gujarat and upto Pune. You check yourself, When we are able to detect them, then why your mechanism is not able to detect it? It means that [English] they are hand in gloves and because of that the people, in general, are suffering.

[Translation]

So, I would like to ask you what kind of effective machinery do you have for it with the use of which you will try to curb this admixing? I remember Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had once said here that black-marketers should be hanged publicly. May I know whether have your taken such type of action against anybody?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I was not a Minister, I had a petrol motor vehicle and petrol was mixed with kerosene. It is not that I don't have any information about it.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : It is a fact, is not it?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : These days I am a Minister. So, I do not know about it. I have got a Government vehicle and I don't know whether kerosene is admixed or not. But I have got information of the time when I used to be in the opposition party. There used to be a lot of admixing those days. I have also beaten some petrol pump dealers. But since the day I became a Minister my hands have rather become weak. Now I cannot wield my hands.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : You are having more strength and power now, it is not reduced.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : As my predecessor has stated and you are also stating, I will try to make a provision of rigorous punishment by making amendments in the current marketing guidelines and disciplined guide lines after studying them hard wherever there are cases of admixing.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, I need one example.

MR. SPEAKER : He has given enough examples including your personal example.

### Sardar Sarovar Project

\*262. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) Whether in her recent meeting with the Prime Minister, at Mumbai Shrimati Medha Patkar of 'Narmada Bachao Andolan' has made a representation to the Prime Minister regarding Sardar Sarovar Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Chief Minister of Gujarat had also taken up this issue with the Prime Minister during his last visit to Ahmedabad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

Ms. Medha Patkar of Narmada Bachao Andolan met the Hon'ble Prime Minister during his visit to Mumbai on 31.05.1997 and subsequently submitted a memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 9.6.1997 when she called on him at Delhi. In her memorandum mentioned above, she has demanded complete review of the Sardar Sarovar Project on account of problems related to resettlement and rehabilitation of project affected families, environmental concerns, economic and financial non-viability of the project and wrong projection of benefits from the Project, including drinking water supplies to Kutch and Saurashtra region.

During the Hon'ble Prime Minister's last visit to Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar on 3rd May, 1997, the Chief Minister of Gujarat has mentioned the issue of Sardar Sarovar Project and had subsequently written to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 6th May, 1997 for his intervention by convening a meeting of the Chief Ministers of all the four participating States to see that the construction work of the Sardar Sarovar Dam is resumed.

All the issues mentioned in the memorandum of Ms. Medha Patkar submitted to the Hon'ble Prime Minister have also been raised in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 319/94 filed in the Supreme Court on 30th April, 1997 by the Narmada Bachao Andolan on Sardar Sarovar Projects.