

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2448
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2005
SUPPLY OF OIL TO ARMY
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether the Government has enquired into the alleged pilferage and adulteration of oil supplied to the army in Ladakh Region;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof and action taken by the Government against the persons found guilty; and
- (c) if not, the time by which the inquiry in the matter is likely to be completed?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b): This Ministry had asked Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to get an inquiry conducted through their Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) into the alleged pilferage of oil supplied to the Army in Ladakh Region as reported in the media in July, 2005.

The CVO conducted the inquiry and inter-alia recommended the following:-

- (i) Major penalty proceedings against the Senior Terminal Manager, the then Depot Manager, Leh, Deputy Manager, Ambala Terminal and Assistant Manager, Ambala Terminal, and their transfer from the present locations to non-sensitive jobs.
- (ii) Minor penalty proceedings against the Foreman, Ambala Terminal and Senior Operator, Ambala Terminal and their transfer to non-sensitive jobs.
- (iii) Action against the transporters as per contract agreement including banning of Tank Truck (TT) crews involved in the incident of seizure of 7 TTs at Leh.
- (iv) Ambiguity in checking of inventories of Locks and system for handing/taking over of Master keys to be removed by issuing fresh circular and fix responsibilities of particular persons associated with it.
- (v) Inspection of Terminals/Depots to be made by senior officers of State/Head Office at a regular frequency and action to be taken for removal of discrepancies observed during inspections in a time bound manner.
- (vi) Present system to secure the transportation of POL products to be replaced with a superior/advance system to make it full proof against any tampering.

After examining the report of the CVO, the management of IOC has placed the Senior Terminal Manager, Ambala Terminal under suspension. Further, regular disciplinary proceedings have been initiated by IOC against Senior Terminal Manager, the then Depot Manager, Leh, Deputy Manager, Ambala Terminal, Assistant Manager, Ambala Terminal, Foreman Ambala Terminal and Senior Operator, Ambala Terminal found to be involved in the alleged pilferage. Transfer orders of the officials concerned have been issued. 7 TTs which were caught by Police at Leh have been suspended. Further, 45 TTs belonging to the transporters whose tank trucks were involved in the incident have also been suspended.

IOC have issued a circular on the role and responsibilities of officers handling security locking system and inspection of depots/terminals as per schedule. They are highlighting the importance of the master key in their conferences. IOC have further stated that while it is absolutely essential for the consignees to check the quality and quantity of the product before taking deliveries, it would be their endeavor to search for cost-effective devices to be installed in tank lorries so as to make it difficult for the carriers to pilfer/adulterate the product.

(c): Does not arise in view of replies to (a) & (b) above.