

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1429

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2005

KEROSENE DEPOT /RETAIL OUTLETS

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

- (a) whether 46 per cent of the blocks in the country do not have any kerosene depot / retail outlet :
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to set up at least one kerosene depot / retail outlet in every block ;
- (d) if so, the details thereof ;
- (e) whether the Union Government has prepared any scheme in this regard ; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) to (f) : At present, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not appointed kerosene wholesale dealers in 2776 blocks out of the total 6050 blocks in the country. Government have recently approved a scheme to strengthen the PDS network in the country. The objective of the scheme which is being run as a pilot project called the 'Jan Kerosene Pariyojana' (JKP) is to revamp the PDS kerosene distribution network with a view to ensuring that this heavily subsidized product is actually made available in the required quantities at subsidized prices to the intended beneficiaries; and, secondly, to thus cap, reverse and eventually eliminate the diversion of PDS SKO for adulteration.

The principal features of the JKP for strengthening the PDS Kerosene distribution network are as under :-

(i) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) will establish at least one Kerosene (SKO) dealership in each of the country's development blocks ;

(ii) In consultation with the District Administration and the wholesale dealer, about 5-10 sub-wholesale points will be located in each block;

(iii) There will be a dedicated fleet of tanker-trucks (TTs) for transportation of PDS kerosene to ensure widespread public information and transparency as these TTs will prominently display the special logo that is being devised for the dedicated fleet. It will be clearly written on the outside of the TT that it is transporting kerosene meant for the Public Distribution System;

(iv) To bring storage dispensing services at SKO dealerships at par with the modern facilities provided at petrol and diesel outlets by OMCs at their own expense, the Ministry's Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) will fund OMCs to ensure the installation of the following facilities at each of the dealerships covered under the pilot project:

storage tanks with a minimum capacity of 20 KLs

calibrated dispensing pumps

adequate number of barrels, appropriately decorated with the special logo, for the delivery of SKO to sub-wholesale points

one or more barrel sheds;

(v) Supplies from the depots of the OMCs to the wholesale storages and further up to sub-wholesale points will be made under the direct supervision and responsibility of the OMCs, who will provide an adequate number of barrels, decorated with the special logo, at the sub-wholesale point for the convenient and assured transportation of PDS SKO to the retail points. Similar logos will be displayed on vehicles transporting PDS SKO from wholesale to sub-wholesale points and from there to retail points at Fair Price Shops;

(vi) At each Fair Price Shop, PDS SKO will be stored in barrels with clearly identified logos which the general public can access to determine for themselves the balance availability of PDS SKO at that Fair Price Shop;

(vii) In consultation with State Governments, Panchayats and Gram Sabhas will be empowered to generally supervise the availability of PDS SKO at subsidised prices, and a reporting mechanism will be put in place for Panchayats / Gram Sabhas to report any deficiencies to the State Administration and the OMCs concerned.

It has been decided to implement the Scheme to begin with in up to 10% of the blocks of the country on pilot basis for a period of six months. Thereafter, the working of the Scheme would be assessed and based on the experience gained, the Government will consider scaling the Scheme to cover the entire country.

The pilot project has been launched effective 2nd October 2005. At present, the pilot project is being implemented in 417 blocks covering 23 States and one Union Territory.