

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:357
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2004
MOBILE LAB TO CHECK ADULTERATION
Appadurai Shri M.;Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the adulteration of Petrol and Petroleum Products probably in nexus between the Tank operators and the petrol pump owners in the country;
- (b) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh and some other States have requested the Union Government to increase the number of Mobile Labs in each district to check adulteration of Petrol and Petroleum Products;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard;
- (d) the number of Petrol Pumps found involved in said activities in each State during the year 2003-2004 alongwith action taken against them; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to check the petroleum adulteration?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.357 BY SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA AND SHRI M. APPADURAI TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH AUGUST, 2004 REGARDING MOBILE LAB TO CHECK ADULTERATION.

(a) : The Government does receive reports of adulteration of transportation fuels and other such malpractices by unscrupulous elements.

(b) & (c) : A request was received from Government of Andhra Pradesh for provision of additional mobile laboratories for the State of Andhra Pradesh. The State Government was advised to ensure optimum utilization of the capacity available at the 9 static and 3 mobile laboratories situated in the State. In case of exigencies, the services of the laboratories situated in neighbouring states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Orissa can also be utilized as is being done in other regions.

(d) : Statewise details of the number of Petrol Pumps found involved in adulteration and action taken against them during 2003-2004 is given at Annexure.

(e) : Government is committed to supplying clean and unadulterated fuel in correct quantity to customers. In order to reduce, minimize and eventually eliminate adulteration, as well as to prevent other malpractices, the following important steps have been taken :-

- Government have issued Control Orders under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to prevent misuse of petroleum products for adulteration of auto fuels, and other malpractices. These Orders provide power of search and seizure to the officers of the State Governments and Oil Marketing Companies.
- Oil Marketing Companies undertake regular inspections of Retail Outlets and take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines and/or Dealership Agreement against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. Penalty of termination of dealership is invoked in established cases of adulteration.
- Oil Marketing Companies have also introduced new tamper proof tank-truck locking systems to prevent en route adulteration by transporters.
- Trials are being conducted for introduction of Marker System.
- The import of Kerosene has been canalized through Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies.
- IT solutions like monitoring movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS) and monitoring level of fuel tanks in Retail Outlets through retail automation are being introduced.
- Branding of Retail Outlets and third party certification of Retail Outlets have been initiated.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.357 BY SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA AND SHRI M. APPADURAI TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH AUGUST, 2004 REGARDING MOBILE LAB TO CHECK ADULTERATION.

(d) : Statewise details of Adulteration cases detected during 2003-04 and action taken against them.

STATE/UT No. of cases of adulteration detected

Andhra Pradesh	28
Bihar	07
Delhi	03
Gujarat	20
Haryana	08
Jammu & Kashmir	01
Jharkhand	04
Karnataka	07
Kerala	05
Madhya Pradesh	15
Maharashtra	26
North East States	02
Orissa	05
Punjab	12
Rajasthan	10
Tamil Nadu	22
Uttar Pradesh	36
Uttaranchal	02
West Bengal	03

TOTAL 216

In these cases action has been taken under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines which provides penal action of fine along with suspension of sales & supply in the first instance and termination of dealership in the second instance.