

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:710

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2007

ADULTERATION OF PETROL, DIESEL AND KEROSENE

Badiga Shri Ramakrishna;Jain Shri Pusp

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware that petrol and diesel are being adulterated on large scale in the country due to nexus of petrol pump owners and high officials;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that incidents of catching fire in running vehicles have increased due to the adulteration;
- (d) if so, the effective steps/new technologies adopted by the Government to check adulteration in petrol, diesel and kerosene; and
- (e) the number of cases of adulteration in petroleum products have been reported during the last three years and action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & (b): The possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel. Government is not aware of any nexus of petrol pump owners and high officials of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in this regard.

(c): Oil Marketing Companies have reported that they do not have any reports regarding increase in incidents of fire in running vehicles due to adulteration.

(d) : To check adulteration in auto fuels and diversion of PDS Kerosene, Government has asked Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to take various steps to contain the menace of adulteration:-

(i) Under the Control Orders issued by the Government to prevent fuel adulteration, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in adulteration. Government have requested the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations to take steps to control adulteration.

(ii) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in cases of adulteration being established.

(iii) Government has taken the initiatives to expedite the installation of Global Positioning System (GPS) to monitor the movement of tank trucks.

(iv) OMCs have introduced new tamper proof tank-truck locking systems to prevent en-route adulteration by transporters.

(v) Keeping in view the misuse/diversion of SKO for adulteration, the import of SKO by private parties has been canalized through OMCs.

(vi) As advised by the Government, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have created a separate wing to report to a Director other than Director (Marketing), which will oversee and monitor all activities and operations to curb adulteration and specify norms and guidelines in this regard.

In order to check adulteration the Government has recently taken a number of additional initiatives which are annexed.

(e): The number of cases of suspected adulteration and number of Retail Outlets (ROs) terminated due to adulteration by OMCs during last three years are as under:

Year	Number of cases of suspected	Number of ROs Terminated due
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adulteration to adulteration

2004-05	225	19
2005-06	229	38
2006-07	187	79