

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2539
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2010
MARKERS ON KEROSENE
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the oil marketing companies use markers on kerosene supplied by Public Distribution System to BPL families, to prevent adulteration of motor fuels with low priced kerosene;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such markers are blended with kerosene and cause fumes which are toxic and carcinogenic;
- (d) if so, whether the markers are tested for human safety; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) & (b) : The Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were doping marker in kerosene meant to be supplied to BPL families through Public Distribution System (PDS) in order to prevent adulteration of Motor Fuels with subsidized kerosene. Owing to deterioration in efficacy of this marker system due to it being found launderable, Govt. decided to discontinue it w.e.f. 31st December, 2008 and directed OMCs to find new efficient marker system through global expression of interest. Accordingly, OMCs are in the process of finding another marker system for doping with PDS SKO.

(c) to (e) : The OMCs have reported that as a precautionary measure relating to possible health hazard and also from toxicological point of view with regard to usage of marker in kerosene a specific requirement is kept in the tenders which specifies that the Marker should be occupationally and toxicologically safe. Such requirements are summarized as follows:

- (i) The marker should not impart any colour to the kerosene and marked kerosene should conform to the current IS 1459 specification.
- (ii) The marker should be compatible with all type of Indian and imported kerosene including blue dyed kerosene.
- (iii) The marker should be occupationally and toxicologically safe. Vendor must provide Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the same.