

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:49

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2011

PILFERAGE/BLACKMARKETING OF SUBSIDIZED KEROSENE

Singh Shri Dushyant;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the operations of unscrupulous people allegedly engaged in adulteration of petroleum products, especially PDS kerosene with diesel in an organized manner in various parts of the country including Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Additional Collector in Maharashtra was allegedly burnt alive by the perpetrators of this heinous crime;

(d) if so, whether the Government has investigated / proposes to investigate such cases; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 49 for 24th February, 2011 asked by Shri Anurag Singh Thakur and Shri Dushyant Singh regarding Pilferage/Black Marketing of subsidized Kerosene.

(a) & (b): The possibility of diversion of Public Distribution System (PDS) Kerosene by some unscrupulous elements for adulteration of petroleum products like Petrol/Diesel, and for non PDS usage, cannot be ruled out due to substantial price difference between PDS kerosene and Petrol, diesel and industrial kerosene.

In order to prevent leakage, diversion and adulteration of petroleum products, several initiatives have been taken by the Government and implemented by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), such as Monitoring of movement of tank trucks transporting petrol/diesel through Global Positioning System (GPS), Automation of Retail Outlets and Third Party Certification of Retail Outlets. Regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets are conducted and action taken under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in the first instance for adulteration.

In view of incidents of pilferage and adulteration, and to further strengthen the monitoring and reinforce anti adulteration efforts, it has been decided that an effective Marker System will be introduced within a period of six months. As PDS SKO is an Ex-Marketing Installation product, transportation beyond the OMCs depot falls within the purview of concerned State/UT Government. State/UT Governments will be requested to introduce Global Positioning System (GPS) based vehicular tracking system for vehicles used for transporting PDS SKO similar to the one used by OMCs for petrol/ diesel tankers. OMCs would provide technical and managerial support to the State Governments for this effort. Further, the OMCs would develop a system whereby information would be uploaded detailing daily dispatch of PDS Kerosene from the depots, registration number of the tank trucks used for transportation, destination, dispatch time etc. and would be available in the public domain.

(c) to (e): The incident in which the Additional Collector of Malegaon (Maharashtra), Sri Yashwant Sonawane was killed was an act of criminal nature, accordingly criminal case has been registered under IPC Sections 302, 307, 353, 143, 147, 148 & 149 and Essential Commodities Act Sections 3 & 7 by the State Police in Maharashtra. The Government of Maharashtra has also reviewed the situation and taken decisions to issue an administrative fiat for intensifying raids/ check on all suspected and unauthorized petroleum dumps in the State and carry out raids jointly by District Revenue and Police officials. Stringent action will be initiated against those found guilty.