

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:484

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2011

SMUGGLING OF KEROSENE FROM OIL TANKERS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether smuggling of kerosene from the public sector oil companies' tankers were reported from different parts of the country recently;
- (b) if so, the number of cases were reported during the last six months; and
- (c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No, Madam. There are no reported cases of smuggling of PDS Kerosene recently from the Oil Marketing Companies' tankers from different parts of the country.

(c): Kerosene is an Ex-Marketing Installation (MI) product and transportation of kerosene from the depot is the responsibility of the State Governments / UTs. State Governments / UTs are empowered to take action against those indulging in diversion/ black-marketing and other irregularities under the provisions in the Kerosene Control Order, 1993. Although, allocation of PDS SKO is made by the Government of India on quarterly basis, its distribution within the States / UTs is the responsibility of the concerned State / UT Government. However, keeping in view the major price difference between SKO & High Speed Diesel (HSD), in order to check the possibility of diversion / black marketing, OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections at kerosene dealerships and take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in diversion / black-marketing of PDS kerosene. In order to check the diversion / black marketing of PDS kerosene, the Central Government have also made provisions in the Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993, issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, that dealers have to sell PDS kerosene at a price fixed by the Government or OMCs.