

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:777

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2011

PETROLEUM RETAIL OUTLETS BY PRIVATE SECTOR

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

- (a) whether the Government has allowed private sector to open petroleum retail outlets throughout the country ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that the prices charged at these outlets are much higher than the Government rates ; and
- (d) if so, the corrective measure 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) & (b) : As per the Resolution of 8th March 2002, Government have granted authorization to market transportation fuels to five private companies namely, M/s. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), M/s. Essar Oil Limited (EOL), M/s. Shell India Marketing Pvt. Limited (SIMPL), M/s. Reliance Petroleum Limited (RPL) and M/s. Nagarjuna Oil Corporation Limited (NOCL).

As on 01.07.2011, RIL, EOL and SIMPL have set up 1429, 1371 and 65 Retail Outlets (ROs) respectively in the country.

RPL and NOCL have not set up any RO in the country.

(c) & (d) : The private sector oil companies are free to take pricing decisions on commercial considerations and they are not subject to pricing restrictions by the Government.