

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2987
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2011
SMUGGLING OF KEROSENE/DIESEL
Singh Shri Rakesh

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

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints of smuggling of diesel and kerosene to neighbouring countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of diesel/kerosene seized during the last three years; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent such smuggling?

Answer

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

(a): Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have reported that they have not received any information regarding smuggling of Diesel and Kerosene to the neighbouring countries.

(b) & (c): Do not arise, in view of the (a) above.

(d): To check various irregularities/ malpractices like adulteration, diversion etc. of petroleum products, the Government has taken a number of initiatives viz. Automation of Retail Outlets, Third Party Certification of Retail outlets, Monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS), etc.

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) also 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 provides for termination of dealership in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, and unauthorized fittings/gears in dispensing units.

Kerosene is an Ex-Marketing Installation (MI) product and transportation of kerosene from the depot of the OMC is the responsibility of the State Government. However, in order to check the black marketing of PDS kerosene, the Central Government have 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 and have to prominently display stock-cum-price board at the place of business including the place of store at a conspicuous place. Under this Control Order, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in black-marketing and other irregularities.