

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:479

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2012

IMPORT OF ATF

Saroj Smt. Sushila;Verma Smt. Usha

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

(a) whether the State run oil PSUs have raised apprehensions regarding the recommendation of the Empowered Group of Ministers to the Cabinet that all domestic carriers should be allowed to directly import the Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to cut their losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most refineries do not have the sophistication to adjust the output of just one fuel; and

(d) if so, whether less production of ATF in our refineries could affect the production of key products like petrol and diesel and possibly lead to more imports?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Apprehensions have been expressed by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), inter-alia, on the following grounds:

i. There is surplus availability of ATF in the country. OMCs have invested heavily in infrastructure for distribution of ATF.

ii. There is no privately owned infrastructure available for handling imports by private parties. This may lead to unsafe handling of imported ATF.

(c) & (d): In refineries, Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) is produced simultaneously alongwith other products like Petrol, Diesel, Kerosene etc. in the same equipment (namely, Fractionation Column) using the process of distillation.

Refineries have some limited flexibility of adjusting rate of producing one product, say ATF, without adversely affecting the quality of other products. This is done by adjusting operating parameters of the Fractionation Column.