

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1564

ANSWERED ON:22.03.2012

DIVERSION OF KEROSENE

Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep;Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Ganpatrao Shri Jadhav Prataprao;Jaiswal Shri Gorakh Prasad ;Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Mishra Shri Govind Prasad;Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

- (a) whether the Government has been able to check diversion of Public Distribution System(PDS) kerosene, sale of adulterated petrol and diesel and involvement of oil mafia in this regard in the country;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to curb such illegal practices;
- (c) the number of whistleblowers killed by the oil mafia during the last three years, alongwith the number of cases registered regarding diversion of kerosene and adulteration of petroleum products, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether a decision has been taken to re-introduce marker system to check adulteration of kerosene; and
- (e) if so, the reasons for not making the marker system mandatory throughout the country alongwith the steps being taken by the Government to introduce foolproof system to check kerosene adulteration?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : In spite of the Government's efforts to check diversion, the possibility of adulteration/ diversion of petroleum product like PDS Kerosene by some unscrupulous elements to derive monetary benefit cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between PDS Kerosene and Petrol / Diesel.

PDS Kerosene supplies to Kerosene dealers are done on Ex-MI (Marketing Installation) basis by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). Further distribution of PDS kerosene within the State to the ration card holders through ration shops/retailers is controlled by the State Governments. The State Civil Supplies Authorities carry out inspection at Kerosene dealers to ensure that the product is delivered through the fair price shops to the intended beneficiaries. In order to check the black marketing/diversion 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 which stipulates 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.

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

Public Sector 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 provide for termination of dealership in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, and unauthorized fittings/gears in dispensing units.

(c): Sri Yashwant Sonawane, Additional Collector of Malegaon (Maharashtra) lost his life on 25.01.2011 while trying to stop an activity of pilferage of petroleum products. Accordingly criminal cases had 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 had also reviewed the situation and taken decisions 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.

(d) & (e): Public Sector OMCs have been directed to expedite the process of developing in-house a marker for doping with PDS Kerosene.