

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4431
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2012
SCARCITY OF KEROSENE
Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

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

- (a) whether there is severe scarcity of kerosene oil in the rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether most of the extremely backward rural regions are dependent on kerosene for lighting up their houses ; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure regular supply of kerosene oil to all households in extremely backward rural regions of the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): There is no report of shortage of Public Distribution System (PDS) Kerosene in the country, including rural areas with reference to allocations. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that there is adequate availability of stocks of PDS Kerosene at all their supply points. As on 02.04.2012, the total gross stock of Kerosene in the country was 664 thousand kilo litre (TKL), which is equivalent to 20 days cover.

(c) & (d): As per a survey carried out by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in 2005, it was estimated that 92.3 percent of households use Kerosene for lighting in rural areas. However, Ministry of Power has reported that as per Census 2011, 55% of rural households use electricity as main source of lighting. Thus, the dependence on Kerosene for the purpose of lighting in rural areas has been considerably reduced. Allocation of PDS Kerosene to States/Union Territories (UTs) is made by the Government of India for cooking and lighting purposes. Further distribution, criterion for eligibility and scale of allocation to beneficiaries is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Government. The State Civil Supplies Authorities of the States/UTs ensure that the product is delivered through their fair price shops to the intended beneficiaries.