

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3296

ANSWERED ON:30.08.2013

COMPLAINTS AGAINST BPCL DISTRIBUTORS

Abdulrahman Shri ;Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Lal Shri Kirodi ;Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

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

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has received a number of complaints of irregularities being committed by their authorized agents/dealers during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken on such complaints; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/ being taken by the Government to keep a check on such irregularities of the authorized agents/dealers of BPCL?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SMT. PANABAAGA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) : Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has reported that during the last three years i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13 and the current year upto June, 2013, on account of established cases of irregularities they have terminated 3 Retail Outlets (RO), suspended sales and supplies of 3 ROs and imposed penalty on 34 ROs in the country. During the same period there were 387 number of established cases of irregularities at LPG distributorships of BPCL in the country. In all these cases, the LPG distributors have been penalized as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001. In case of Kerosene Dealerships, BPCL has suspended the supplies of the 1 Kerosene dealership and suspended SKO licenses of 2 dealerships during 2010-11 and 2012-13 respectively.

(c) : The Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply, Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 2005 issued by the Central Government under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 provides for punitive action against malpractices such as adulteration.

In order to stop irregularities like diversion, black marketing etc. in domestic LPG cylinders, the Government has enacted "Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000" and formulated "Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001" which provides for penal action against LPG distributors indulging in diversion of LPG.

In order to check the black marketing/ diversion of PDS kerosene, the Central Government has 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.

Other initiatives undertaken by the Government includes Automation of Retail Outlets, Third Party Certification of Retail outlets, Monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS) to check various irregularities/ malpractices at retail outlets of various Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).