

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4640

ANSWERED ON:21.02.2014

ADULTERATION AND BLACK MARKETING OF PDS KEROSENE

Singh Shri Ganesh

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

(a) whether complaints regarding adulteration and black marketing of PDS kerosene in various States/UTs have come to the notice of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): The possibility of black marketing/ diversion of 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 Government. The State Civil Supplies Authorities ensure that the product uplifted is delivered to the fair price shops and to the intended beneficiaries.

Public Sector OMCs have reported that based on the inspections conducted by them and reports received from respective District/State Authorities, 92 cases of irregularities like adulteration, black marketing, diversion and irregularities in distribution of PDS kerosene were detected during the last three years and current year (April-December, 2013). During this period, 4 kerosene dealers were terminated against proven cases of diversion/black marketing of kerosene.

In order to check the black marketing/adulteration 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, as per which 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. Further, PDS kerosene released is dyed with blue dye to facilitate detection of PDS kerosene in non-PDS uses. Under this Control Order, State Governments are also empowered to take action against those indulging in black-marketing and other irregularities.