

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:261

ANSWERED ON:16.03.2015

THEFT OF CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS

Dhruvanarayana Shri Rangaswamy;Mahendran Shri C.

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

- (a) whether classified/secret documents were stolen from his Ministry and delivered to some Business Houses and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the persons/officiails and coroporate executives found to be involved in this incident and follow-up action taken including holding of inquiry in the matter;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the financial loss incurred due to leakage of these documents and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents in futurre; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to regulate and strengthen the laid down procedures for safe custody of critical/secret documents in view of such unsavoury incidents and if so, the modalities worked out in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS [ SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN ]

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 261 asked by Shri C. Mahendran and Shri R. Dhurava Narayana to be answered on 16lh March, 2015 regarding "Theft of Classified Documents".

(a) to (c) :On 18.02.2015, a case of theft of official documents from the Ministry has been reported by Crime Branch, Delhi Police. The matter is under investigation by the said agency. As per the copy of the FIR, a raid was conducted by the Crime Branch, Delhi Police on 18.02.2015 and Shri Rakesh, Shri Lalta Prasad and Shri Raj Kumar Chaubey along with two Government officials, namely Shri Asharam and Shri Ishwar Singh, working as Multi Tasking Staff in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas have been arrested. Both the Government officials were placed under deemed suspension with immediate effect. One more official, namely, Shri Bir Singh, MTS was also placed under suspension. The matter is under investigation by the Crime Branch, Delhi Police, and the said agency has not shared any further details in the matter with this Ministry.

(d) & (e) :The Ministry has taken a number of steps for ensuring safety of official documents. Security measures undertaken before the theft incident on 18.2.2015:-

(i) A meeting was held in the Ministry in June, 2014 on the security of documents. Representatives of MHA also participated in the meeting. MHA was requested to conduct a security audit of the Ministry to ascertain the loopholes and give recommendations.

(ii) Cabinet Notes on Policy matters, e.g., Gas Pricing, Diesel Deregulation were drafted on a stand-alone computers.

(iii) CCTVs were installed in sensitive locations.

(iv) Recommendations for issuance of MHA passes were restricted.

**ACTION TAKEN AFTER THE INCIDENT :**

The following additional measures have been taken/contemplated :-

(i) It has been reiterated that all officials of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas should strictly follow the procedure prescribed in MHA guidelines regarding security of official files and documents.

(ii) Additional almirahs with locks have been provided to Officers and Sections.

(iii) Doors in corridors will be installed and after office hours, only one door will remain open. Guards will be deputed on this door to monitor the movement of personnel.

(iv) More CCTVs are being installed in the Ministry.

(v) JS (Admin) has been notified as the Departmental Security Officer.