

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:150

ANSWERED ON:18.07.2016

Cases of Espionage

Lekhi Smt. Meenakashi

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

- (a) whether the Government has noticed some cases of espionage, theft and leakage of confidential documents in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with current status of the case of theft of confidential official documents reported last year; and
- (c) the preventive steps taken/ being taken by the Government for safety of official documents and to strengthen the vigilance mechanism in this regard ?

Answer

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

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- (a): On 18.02.2015, a case of theft of official documents from the Ministry was reported/registered by Crime Branch, Delhi Police.
 - (b): The investigating agency has filed a charge-sheet in the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Patiala House on 17.04.2015 against 13 persons including two government officials of this Ministry namely, Shri Asha Ram and Shri Ishwar Singh, Multi Tasking Staff. Both the government officials involved in the case were placed under suspension. The matter is presently sub-judice in the Court of Law.
 - (c): The Ministry has taken a number of steps for safety of official documents which are as under:
 - (i) It has been reiterated that all officials of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas should strictly follow the procedure prescribed in Ministry of Home Affairs guidelines regarding security of official files and documents
 - (ii) CCTVs have been installed in sensitive locations.
 - (iii) All entry/exit points in the corridors have been provided with doors which are locked after office hours.
 - (iv) Recommendation for issuance of entry passes are restricted and Ministry of Home Affairs is also requested to issue passes only on recommendations.
 - (v) Security verification of the outsourced staff is enforced.
 - (vi) Visitor Management System has been implemented to regulate the entry of visitors.
 - (vii) Officers and Staff have been sensitized on various issues/threats related to Departmental Security including cyber security by conducting workshops with the help of Intelligence Bureau.
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