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Title : Statement regarding Pilferage of diesel while supplying from IOC's a Ambala Depot to Army Depot at Leh.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): In July, 2005, it was reported in the media that Tank Trucks (TTs) carrying diesel from Ambala depot to Leh were found to be carrying water. Commanding Officer, Field Petroleum Depot, Indian Army, Leh vide his letter of 16th July, 2005 had informed IOC's Ambala Terminal that seven TTs loaded with HSD ex-Ambala were found to be carrying water. This Ministry had asked Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to get an inquiry conducted through their Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) into the alleged pilferage of oil supplied to the Army in the Ladakh region.

The CVO conducted the inquiry and has, *inter alia*, recommended the following:

- (i) Major penalty proceedings against the Senior Terminal Manager, the then Depot Manager, Leh; Deputy Manager, Ambala Terminal and Assistant Manager, Ambala Terminal; and their transfer from the present locations to non-sensitive jobs.
- (ii) Minor penalty proceedings against the Foreman, Ambala Terminal and Senior Operator, Ambala Terminal and their transfer to non-sensitive jobs.
- (iii) Action against the transporters as per contract agreement including banning of Tank Truck (TT) crews involved in the incident of seven TTs being seized at Leh.

* Also placed in Library. See No. LT 3242/05

- (iv) Ambiguity in the checking of inventories of locks and system for handing/taking over of master keys to be removed by issuing a fresh circular, and fix responsibilities on particular persons associated with it.
- (v) The inspection of Terminals/Depots to be made by senior officers of State/Head Office at a regular frequency and action to be taken for the removal of discrepancies observed during inspections in a time bound manner.
- (vi) The present system to secure the transportation of POL products to be replaced with a superior/advance system to make it full proof against any tampering [\[KMR17\]](#).

After examining the report of the CVO, the management of IOC has placed the Senior Terminal Manager, Ambala Terminal under suspension. Further, regular disciplinary proceedings have been initiated by IOC against Senior Manager, the then Depot Manager, Leh, Deputy Manager, Ambala Terminal, Assistant Manager, Ambala Terminal, Foreman, Ambala Terminal and Senior Operator, Ambala Terminal found to be involved in the alleged pilferage. Transfer orders of the officials concerned have been issued. Seven TTs which were caught by Police at Leh have been suspended. Moreover, 45 TTs belonging to the transporters whose tank trucks were involved in the incident have also been suspended.

IOC have issued a circular on the role and responsibilities of officers handling security locking systems and inspection of depots/terminals as per schedule. They are highlighting the importance of the master key in their conferences. IOC have further stated that while it is absolutely essential for the consignees to check the quality and quantity of the product before taking deliveries, it would be their endeavour to search for cost-effective devices to be installed in tank lorries so as to make it difficult for the carriers to pilfer or

adulterate the product.
