

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3329
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH MARCH, 2025

Irregularities in Distribution, Supply and Pricing of Petroleum and Natural Gas

†3329. Shri Brijmohan Agrawal:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that irregularities are occurring in the distribution, supply and pricing of Petroleum and Natural Gas in Chhattisgarh, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding short measuring/weighing, black marketing and illegal supply by the petrol pumps, gas agencies and dealers, if so the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is true that several industrial units and commercial establishments are illegally using domestic LPG cylinders, causing harm to the general public, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government is considering sending a central agency for a thorough investigation of these irregularities and taking strict action against the culprits and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री
(श्री सुरेश गोपी)

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
(SHRI SURESH GOPI)**

(a) to (d) The Government and Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) periodically receive complaints from all over India including the State of Chhattisgarh regarding various issues relating to, inter alia, short measuring/weighing, black marketing, illegal supply by the Retail Outlets (ROs), LPG Distributorships.

Complaints of irregularities/ malpractices received / detected at the OMCs' ROs and LPG godowns and showrooms of LPG distributorships in States/UTs including Chhattisgarh are looked into and punitive action taken in established cases as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDGs) and Dealership/Distributorship Agreement.

In order to stop black marketing (overcharging and diversion) of domestic LPG cylinders, the Government has enacted "Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000" and formulated "Marketing Discipline Guidelines" which provides for penal action against LPG distributors indulging in various irregularities in marketing of LPG. Central Government, from time to time, has also issued various control orders under Essential Commodities Act like Motor Spirit (MS)/High Speed Diesel (HSD) Control Order, Kerosene Control Order, Naphtha Control Order, Solvent, Raffinate and Slop Control order etc. with a view to preventing adulteration in petroleum products and other malpractices.

In addition, Regular/Surprise inspections are carried out by OMCs' Field Officers /Senior Officers/Mobile Laboratory officials/Quality Reassurance Cell at ROs throughout the country including the State of Chhattisgarh to detect irregularities/ malpractices. Regular/surprise inspections are also carried out by OMC's Field Officers, Anti Adulteration Cell and Vigilance Department at LPG godowns and showrooms of LPG distributorships.

OMCs have taken action against ROs in 1426 established cases in the State of Chhattisgarh during the last 3 years and current year (April to Dec 2024). OMCs have imposed penalties in 189 established cases of irregularities in marketing of LPG (refill distribution, supplies and pricing) such as diversion of LPG refills (unaccounted sale of domestic LPG cylinders), overcharging on refills / new LPG connections, non-compliance of Cash and Carry rebate to the customers, supply of underweight cylinders in the State of Chhattisgarh during the last 3 years and current year (April to Dec 2024).

Further, various initiatives have been taken by the Government viz. capping on supply of subsidized cylinders, de-duplication, 'PAHAL' for direct transfer of subsidy to the consumer which helped in identifying 'ghost' accounts, multiple accounts and inactive accounts. This has also helped in curbing diversion of subsidized LPG to commercial purposes and KYC exercise etc. which reduce the misuse and diversion of subsidized LPG cylinders.

OMCs have adequate monitoring mechanisms for identifying and checking adulteration in petroleum products. This is a continuous process and OMCs have been taking various steps to curb adulteration and other malpractices.
