

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:250

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2005

IRREGULARITIES AND ADULTERATION IN PETROL PUMPS

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of petrol pump owners and kerosene dealers in the country are indulging in the irregularities;
- (b) if so, the number of dealers who have been punished during each of the last two years for this act;
- (c) whether a number of dealers of kerosene oil are also selling it at a higher rate in comparison to the rates prescribed by the Government; and
- (d) if so, the number of such dealers detected during the last two years and the action taken against them?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

- (a): The possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel.
- (b) : During the last two years, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have taken action against the following number of dealers for indulging in various irregularities/malpractices: -

Dealer	2003-04	2004-05
Retail Outlets	777	612
SKO	1	4

- (c) & (d) : While the OMCs have not reported any case of SKO dealer indulging in selling of kerosene at higher rate than the rates prescribed by the Government during the last two years, with a view to ensuring that subsidized PDS kerosene is made available to the consumers at the right price and is not diverted for unintended use, the Government has launched a pilot project "Jan Kerosene Pariyojna" in 420 blocks in the country effective 2.10.2005. The pilot project will be implemented for a period of six months and based on experience gained it would be considered for scaling-up to cover the whole country later.