

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3489

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2005

RAIDS ON GAS AGENCIES/ PETROL PUMPS

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently conducted raids on some gas agencies/petrol pumps in the capital to check malpractices ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome thereof ;
- (c) the action taken against the gas agencies/petrol pumps found guilty ;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to start a campaign to inspect gas agencies in all the States ;
- (e) if so, the time by which the said inspection process is likely to be completed ;
- (f) if not, the reasons thereof ; and
- (g) the measures being taken by the Union Government to check such irregularities ?

Answer

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

(a) to (g) : Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) conduct inspections of LPG gas agencies and petrol pumps and take action against the erring LPG distributors / petrol pump dealers as per the provisions under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). In addition, State Government are empowered to take action as per law. The Weights and Measures Department of Delhi Government conducted raids on 143 LPG distributors and 128 petrol pump dealers of OMCs in Delhi during the period April-September 2005 and discrepancy has been observed in respect of 62 LPG distributors and 9 petrol pump dealers. All the erring dealers have been fined by the State Department as per their procedure. In the case of LPG distributors, fine has been imposed on 50 distributors and 12 cases are pending.

The steps taken by the Government / OMCs to check malpractices/irregularities in LPG distribution include :-

- (i) LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 have been promulgated. Under this Order, various malpractices like pilferage of LPG from cylinders and supply of underweight cylinders, etc are prohibited.
- (ii) State Governments are empowered to take action against erring distributors / persons under the provisions of the above Order.
- (iii) Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) for LPG distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been laid down prescribing punishment for offending distributors involved in various malpractices of LPG.
- (iv) Officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributor's godowns, delivery points as well as enroute to forestall pilferage. If pilferage is established, on any complaint, action is taken against the erring distributor in terms of the MDG.

Similarly, following steps have been taken to prevent adulteration on petrol pumps :-

- (i) Under the Control Orders issued by the Government to prevent fuel adulteration, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in adulteration. Government have taken up this matter with all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to step up inspections/ surprise checks to ensure that adulteration-related activities are minimized and to exercise vigil/conduct inspections at various private firms, factories, processing units, etc., under their jurisdictions so as to identify the perpetrators of adulteration and take stringent action against them within the available legal framework.
- (ii) As advised by the Government, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have created a separate wing to report to a Director other than Director (Marketing), which will oversee and monitor all activities and operations to curb adulteration and specify norms and guidelines in this regard.
- (iii) Keeping in view the misuse/diversion of SKO for adulteration, the import of SKO by private parties has been canalized through OMCs.

(iv) OMCs have introduced new tamper proof tank-truck locking systems to prevent en route adulteration by transporters.

(v) Information Technology (IT) solutions like monitoring movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS) and monitoring level of fuel tanks in Retail Outlets through retail automation are being introduced.

(vi) Branding of Retail Outlets and third party certification of Retail Outlets have been initiated by the OMCs.

(vii) Effective 2nd October 2005, Government launched the Jan Kerosene Pariyojana as a pilot project in 417 blocks covering 23 States and one Union Territory for a period of six months with a view to strengthening and streamlining the infrastructure for kerosene distribution and involving the Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats and State Panchayati Raj Institutions in the supervision of PDS kerosene distribution, so as to ensure that entitled beneficiaries actually receive their entitlement and diversion to adulteration and black-marketing is capped, reversed and eventually eliminated.