

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1360
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2006
CAPTURING FUEL BUSINESS BY OIL MAFIA
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that oil mafia's has virtually captured fuel business in many States;
- (b) if so, the facts and details in this regard;
- (c) whether the mafia's are having links with the officials of the oil companies and selling adulterated fuel openly; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check such illegal business?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & (b): 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. As regards the possibilities of oil mafia operating in different States, the primary responsibility for dealing with such law and order issue vests, under the Constitution, with the State Governments.

(c) & (d): The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that they have no established case of involvement of their officers in adulteration cases. However, there are provisions under the Conduct Rules as also the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG), 2005 to take action against officers found involved in irregularities/malpractices, including adulteration. The action taken by the Government/Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in containing the menace of adulteration in petrol/diesel include the following:-

(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) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for penalty of termination of dealership in cases of adulteration being established.

(iii) 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.

(iv) Keeping in view the misuse/diversion of SKO for adulteration, the import of SKO by private parties has been canalized through OMCs.

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

(vi) 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.

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

(viii) Effective 2nd October 2005, Government launched the Jan Kerosene Pariyojana as a pilot project in 413 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.

Measures to check adulteration are kept under continuous review of the Government.