

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1277
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2006
SUBSIDIZED KEROSENE TO FISHERMEN
Manoj Dr. K.S.

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

- (a) whether severe hardship is being faced by the coastal fishermen due to curtailment in kerosene supply and increase in its price;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to make separate allocation of kerosene for the fishermen;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to fulfill the requirement of fishermen?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): The Government of India allocates Kerosene to the States/Union Territories (UTs) under the Public Distribution System (PDS) for the purpose of cooking and illumination only. There is no separate allocation for the fisheries sector to any State/UT. Further distribution within the State/UT is handled by the concerned State Government/UT Administration.

With a view to assessing the genuine demand requirement of kerosene in different State/UTs, in December 2004 the Government commissioned a study of the subject through the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER). NCAER submitted their report in October, 2005. In their report, NCAER have noted that PDS kerosene is supplied for fishing in some coastal States and have inter alia recommended that the kerosene requirement for fishing may be supplied at non-PDS price. The recommendations of the NCAER have been brought to the notice of State Governments.

The price of PDS kerosene has not been increased since April, 2002. As of 17.07.06, the public sector oil marketing companies had overall Kerosene stocks at their supply locations in various State sufficient to meet 23 days requirement on all India basis. In addition to the PDS Kerosene, oil companies sell free sale Kerosene at market price as per the requirements. The fishermen may like to procure their requirements at market price.