

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1361
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2007
MONITORING MOVEMENT OF KEROSENE TANKERS
Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the movement of Kerosene tankers from storage tanks to wholesalers in sub-division is being monitored through satellite to avoid any pilferage or diversion of fuel to the black market;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof ;
- (c) whether inspite of monitoring through satellite the pilferage of kerosene from tankers to wholesalers continue; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and further action contemplated by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) : Yes, Sir. With a view to checking diversion of subsidized kerosene and in order to monitor the movement of Tank Trucks transporting petroleum products, the Government have advised the public sector OMCs for installing Global Positioning System (GPS) based vehicle tracking system on all the tank trucks. OMCs have taken up the task of providing GPS to the tank trucks in a phased manner. The essential feature of the system is that the vehicle carrying PDS SKO is fitted with a device which enables tracking of the vehicle movement on real time basis from the time it leaves the supply location and till it reaches the destination.

(c)&(d): OMCs have reported that there is no case reported so far of pilferage of product from the tank trucks provided with GPS system.

However, the possibility of diversion of PDS Kerosene by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between PDS Kerosene and petrol/diesel and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel.

Government have approved a pilot project for radically revamping the PDS kerosene distribution network with the primary objective of ensuring that this heavily subsidized product is actually made available in the required quantities at subsidized price to the intended beneficiaries; and secondly, to thus cap, reverse and eventually eliminate the diversion of PDS kerosene for adulteration. One of the salient features of this scheme is that supplies to the sub-wholesale points will be made under the direct supervision and responsibility of the public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). The scheme has been launched on a pilot basis in 414 blocks in the country from 2nd October, 2005. The pilot scheme has been further extended upto 30.06.2007.

To check adulteration in auto fuels, and also to check diversion of subsidized kerosene, Government have also advised OMCs to introduce marker in adulterants. Public sector OMCs have commenced introduction of marker in kerosene on all India basis with effect from 1.10.2006. Under the new system, Marker is being put in kerosene in all depots. This system heralds the introduction of world-class technology to curb and eventually eliminate the menace of adulteration of transportation fuels along the supply chain. With the marker's presence, adulteration even with very low levels of kerosene can be detected. MS/HSD Control Order, 2005, SKO Control Order, 1993 and MDG 2005 have been amended for making provision regarding introduction of marker system in Kerosene to check adulteration. A committee has been set up in the Ministry to monitor the progress of the marker system. Oil Marketing Companies in the Private sector have also been simultaneously asked to introduce marker in Kero sene as is being done by Public Sector OMCs.