

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:249

ANSWERED ON:22.07.2004

DIFFICULTIES OF VILLAGES DUE TO INCREASE IN PRICES OF KEROSENE OIL

Gadakh Shri Tukaram Gangadhar

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that in most of the villages in our country poor people use kerosene and due to constant increase of kerosene prices these people face great difficulties;
- (b) whether the poor villagers are not able to purchase required quantity of Kerosene;
- (c) if so, whether Government propose to take steps to keep the price of kerosene stable for the poor villagers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 249 BY SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND JULY, 2004 REGARDING DIFFICULTIES OF VILLAGES DUE TO INCREASE IN PRICES IN KEROSENE OIL.

(a) & (b) : Oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) have not raised their selling price of PDS kerosene since 1st March 2002. The selling price of PDS kerosene was not raised even on 16th June 2004, when prices of other petroleum products were raised. PDS kerosene at subsidized rates is allocated to States/UTs, who, in turn, make their own arrangements to reach this product to entitled consumers in villages and urban areas.

(c) & (d) : With a view to stabilizing the price of PDS kerosene, Government have been providing a flat rate of subsidy for PDS kerosene and Oil PSUs have shared the burden of subsidizing this product by not passing on to PDS consumers the increase in international prices since 1st March 2002.