

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4089
ANSWERED ON:18.05.2006
RETAIL OUTLET NETWORK
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

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

- (a): whether the Government owned oil companies have proposed to expand its retail outlet network;
- (b): if so, the details thereof; and
- (c): the time by which the expansion programme will come into effect?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) are free to expand their retail outlet network in the country as per their business plans and policy guidelines, subject to the conditions that they set up new retail outlets at locations which are found to be commercially viable after conducting feasibility study. Four such OMCs, viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and IBP Co. Limited have plans to set up 3,222 new ROs in the country during the current year, i.e., 2006-07. However, it is not possible to indicate the timeframe within which the new outlets will be set up as the exercise involves various steps like advertisement, selection of dealer, procurement of suitable site, obtaining various approvals, explosive licence, clearances from the National Highways Authority of India, etc.