

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1397
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2006
UNDER MEASUREMENT OF PETROL
Nikhil Kumar Shri

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

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news item captioned, 'Less petrol for your money' as reported in The Times of India dated October 25, 2006;
- (b) if so, whether recent inspections at petrol pumps have revealed that many petrol pumps were dispensing less petrol than what they were charging from consumers; and
- (c) if so, the details of pumps which were checked and the steps taken by the Government to set right such petrol pumps?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that the Weights & Measures (W&M) Department, Government of Delhi inspected 234 number of retail outlets (ROs) involving 4210 dispensing units (DUs) of public sector OMCs during the period April- September, 2006, out of which 25 number of ROs involving 29 DUs) were found to be delivering Motor Sprit (MS) and High Speed Diesel (HSD) short between 15 ml to 45 ml per 5 litres, which is beyond the permissible limit of 15 ml per 5 litres. Sales from the DUs delivering short were suspended and the DUs were got recalibrated by W&M Department. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has reported that out of the 56 ROs involving 1063 DUs which were inspected by W&M Department, no case of short delivery of MS/HSD was noticed. W&M Department noticed short delivery in respect of 3 ROs out of which 2 ROs involved short delivery of Lube Oil and 1 RO involved short delivery of 2T premix.

In cases where ROs were found delivering short beyond the permissible limits, the offences have been compounded & fines imposed. Sales have been resumed after recalibration of DUs by W&M Department.

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 termination of dealership. In the 1st instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, unauthorized fittings/gears in dispensing units.

In order to monitor the activities at retail outlets by adopting the latest technological improvements, OMCs have been directed to introduce automation of retail outlets. They have been directed to complete automation of retail outlets selling more than 200 KL per month by March 2007. OMCs have been directed to complete third party certification of all the retail outlets selling more than 100 KL per month by March 2007.