

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1396
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2006
BLACK MARKETING OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking stringent steps against black marketing and adulteration of petroleum products since August 1, 2005;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with guidelines issued in this direction;
- (c) the action taken so far for violating the guidelines along with the results thereof, company-wise; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): To check adulteration and black marketing in petroleum products, Government has asked Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to take various steps, including revising the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) 2001. MDG 2005 provide relatively more stringent punitive action against erring dealers. They were made effective from 01.08.2005. MDG, 2005 inter-alia provide termination in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, unauthorized fittings/ gears in dispensing units, unauthorized storage facilities within the premises of Retail Outlets (ROs), unauthorized sales/purchase/ exchange of Petrol/Diesel (MS/HSD) and selling of normal MS/HSD as branded fuel etc. Some malpractices which were not covered under MDG 2001, have also been brought under the purview of MDG 2005. These are totaliser seals found tampered, additional/ unauthorized fitting/gears found in the dispensing unit, detection of storage facility outside licensed premises with interconnection into the RO premises, selling of normal MS/HSD as branded fuels, refusal by dealer to allow drawal of sample and/or carrying out of inspection etc. The details of others steps taken recently by OMCs to curb adulteration of petrol/ diesel and streamlining the PDS kerosene distribution is at Annex 'A'.

(c) & (d): 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. The details of inspections carried out by the OMCs for the period August 2005 to September, 2006 is at Annex 'B'.