

Misuse of powers by field officers

2601. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil Corporation's field officers have been given vast powers under the RMDG and MDG;

(b) whether the same are oftenly misused by them and honest dealers are also harassed and penalty are imposed on the dealers without information even to dealers;

(c) what is the mode of appeal in case the penalties are imposed on dealers;

(d) whether the dealers are given opportunities to explain the charges framed against them; and

(e) how much period for the appeal is granted and the detail procedure for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Oil companies had successively formulated Marketing Discipline Guidelines of 1982/1995 and the Revised Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 1998 for marketing of petroleum products by dealers/dis-tributors. According to the MDG, the field officers are required to inspect and monitor the dealerships/distributorships to ensure that customers get the correct quality and quantity of the product, etc. In case of any irregularities, the dealer's written explanation is sought and action is taken if the explanation is not found satisfactory. As per MDG 1998, every punitive action would be taken after giving show cause notice of minimum 7 days. However, at present implementation of Marketing Disciplines Guidelines, 1995 and Revised Marketing Discipline guidelines, 1998 has been stayed by the Delhi High Court. Therefore, action against the erring dealers is being taken in accordance with dealership agreements.

Misuse of funds for poverty alleviation in KBK districts

2602. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: (a) whether misuse of funds meant

for poverty alleviation programmes caused starvation deaths in Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action proposed against large scale corruption in the implementation of programmes, schemes and projects in those districts; and

(d) the steps proposed to develop these districts at an early date to prevent such starvation deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The State Government have reported that a vigilance mechanism is in position in the Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) districts, as in other districts for overseeing implementation of various poverty amelioration programmes. The guidelines of Government of India have been kept in view while setting up the vigilance mechanism. In addition, a vigilance Cell has been established at State Head Quarters under the charge of Additional Secretary in the Panchayati Raj Department.

(d) In order to focus on high priority schemes which would deal with the basic problems of the undivided districts Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi, the government of Orissa has prepared the Revised Long Term Action Plan (1998-99 to 2006-07) which comprises of Central Plan Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes in various sectors, namely, agriculture, horticulture, watershed development, afforestation, irrigation, health, drinking water, emergency feeding, welfare of SCs/STs and rural connectivity.

In addition to the normal flow of funds under Central Plans and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, various steps have been taken to ensure some additional funding to these districts in 1998-99. These include doubling