

**Retail outlets**

†649. SHRI SHREE GOPAL WAS:  
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:

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

(a) the details of total outlets of petrol/diesel being operated by public sector oil companies in the country at present; State-wise and company-wise;

(b) the details of outlets being run by these companies and those by private companies, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that outlets operated by public Sector companies and continuously running in loss;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government are considering their closure; and

(e) if so by when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b)As on 1.10.2006, there are 30915 retail outlets (ROs) in the country being operated by public sector oil companies, namely Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), IBP Company (IBP), Assam Oil Division (AOD), Numaligarh Refineries Limited (NRL) and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). As on 1.10.2006, there are 1818 Retail Outlets (ROs) being operated by private oil companies, namely Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), Essar and Shell, the State-wise and Company-wise details are annexed as Statement. (*See below*)

(c) to (e) ROs of the public sector OMCs have been set up based on feasibility study as well as economic viability based on parameters like internal rate of return. Financial performance of the ROs varies depending on prevailing market conditions. After dismantling of Administrative Price Mechanism (APM) *w.e.f.* 1.4.2002, setting up of new ROs and their closure is to be decided by the OMCs themselves and the Government does not interfere in the commercial decision.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.