

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has blacklisted such gas agencies and petrol pumps;

(c) the other actions taken by the Ministry against such gas agencies and petrol pumps; and

(d) whether it is a fact that such irregularities are going on for last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), namely Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have reported 26 established cases of benami LPG distributors and 126 established cases of benami Retail Outlets (ROs) in the country during last five years and April-June, 2010 and all these have been terminated.

Change in current policy for allotment of gas agencies

996. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to change its current policy for allotment of gas agencies, petroleum outlets etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) While formulating the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitruk Yojana (RGGLVY) for the rural/under-covered areas, it was decided that selection of the LPG distributors under this scheme be made through draw of lots. Consequent upon success of the procedures adopted for selection of LPG distributors under the RGGLVY through draw of lots amongst the eligible candidates, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have decided to adopt draw of lots for selection of regular LPG distributorships also. For Retail Outlets there is no proposal for change in selection process.

Selling of adulterated petro-products

997. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has recently registered several cases pertaining to the pilferage and adulteration of petroleum products and kerosene during a special nationwide drive;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the adulteration of petroleum products has been increasing in the light of the failure of oil companies to check the trend; and

(d) if so, the action Government proposes to take against those agencies found guilty of selling adulterated petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Recently 14 cases *i.e.* 11 cases in May, 2010 and 3 in last week of July, 2010 were registered by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) under various sections of IPC, EC Act, Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply, Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, Naphtha (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of use in Automobiles) Order and Solvent, Refinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of use in Automobiles) Order for various irregularities like adulteration, diversion of Naphtha, unauthorized possession of petrol and diesel etc.

(c) and (d) Possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel. Checking adulteration is a continuous process and this Ministry has been reviewing steps taken to curb adulteration from time to time. Accordingly, in order to check adulteration, the Government has taken a number of initiatives *viz.*, Automation of Retail Outlets, Third party certification of Retail Outlets, Monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS), Revision of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG), Smart Card Scheme etc.

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under MDG and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, and unauthorized fittings/gears in dispensing units.

Extension of credit facilities to Kingfisher airlines by HPCL

998. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that the cash strapped Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) has extended credit facilities to Kingfisher airlines upto June, 2010 without recovering old dues and ignoring Government order for corporate guarantee;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of net profit of HPCL during 2008-09 and 2009-10 and the details of dues on Kingfisher as on March, 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) M/s Kingfisher Airlines has been extended 60 days credit by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) against the factoring arrangement with the Deutsche Bank for the current supplies as well as corporate guarantee of M/s United Breweries Holdings Ltd. of Rs. 500 crore. This Ministry had advised HPCL that a special Board Meeting be convened for considering the issue of outstanding dues from M/s Kingfisher Airlines.