Black marketing of PDS kerosene

2287. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether kerosene oil meant for poor people through Public Distribution System (PDS) is being sold in the black market;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) the number of complaints received during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent black marketing of kerosene oil in open market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The possibility of diversion/black marketing of petroleum product like Public Distribution System (PDS) Kerosene by some unscrupulous elements to derive monetary benefit cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between PDS Kerosene and petrol/diesel as well as for non-PDS usage.

The allocation of PDS SKO is made by the Government of India on quarterly basis, its distribution within the States/UTs is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Government. As kerosene is an Ex-Marketing Installation (MI) product and transportation of kerosene from the depot is the responsibility of the State Governments/UTs. State Governments/UTs are empowered to take action against those indulging in diversion/black-marketing and other irregularities under the provisions in the Kerosene Control Order, 1993.

(c) and (d) OMCs have reported that 129 cases of irregularities like pilferage, adulteration and black Marketing of PDS Kerosene had come to the notice during last three years and April-September, 2010. State-wise details of cases of diversion/black marketing of PDS Kerosene and action taken thereon are available with Director (Marketing) of Public Sector OMCs.

Keeping in view the major price difference between SKO & High Speed Diesel (HSD), in order to check the possibility of diversion/black marketing, OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections at kerosene dealerships and take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)

and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in diversion/black-marketing of PDS kerosene. The Central Government has also made provisions in the Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993, issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, that dealers have to sell PDS kerosene at a price fixed by the Government or OMCs.

Allocation of gas to power plants

2288. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoMs) met at New Delhi on 2 November, 2010 to allocate gas to various power projects of the country from the additional natural gas reserve;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the power plants that have been allocated gas quota, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Dividend paid by ONGC

2289. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the dividend paid by public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for 2009-10, 2008-09 and 2007-08;

(b) whether the same was not waived or reduced because of their poor financial health, as claimed by Government; and

(c) the total Central taxes and duties paid by OMCs during that period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Details of dividend paid by OMCs during 2009-10, 2008-09 and 2007-08 are given below: