

**Cases of oil adulteration in the country**

†726. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:

SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

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

- (a) the number of cases of adulteration of kerosene and other substances in petrol and diesel which have come to light during the last three years across the country;
- (b) the action taken against the guilty persons in last three years;
- (c) whether the existing method of collection of sample for testing adulteration is satisfactory; and
- (d) whether the Ministry accepts that Government mechanism has failed in curbing the rampant activity of adulteration in oil in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (d) The possibility of diversion of petroleum product like 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.

During the last three years 278 retail outlets and 183 transporters have been terminated and black listed on account of adulteration, diversion of product etc. respectively.

The existing method of collection of samples for testing adulteration being followed by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) is the 3 tier sampling as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) wherein samples are drawn at the supply location and transporter's sample at the time of delivery of supply at the Retail Outlet (RO). This is for establishing as to where and at what stage adulteration/malpractice has taken place *i.e.* depot, transport or at retail outlets. As per the system, while the supplying location sample is retained by the supplying depot, the dealer is required to keep tank lorry sample of the product received jointly signed by transporter and dealer. The third sample is the sample of retail outlet tank drawn by inspecting officials. In case the retail outlet sample fails, the tank lorry and depot sample are also tested to identify the stage at which adulteration took place and suitable action is accordingly taken.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.