

Checking of black marketing and adulteration of petrol products

128. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is unable to check diversion of PDS kerosene, petrol and diesel adulteration in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken to avoid such unlawful activities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) 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.

(c) In order to check the black marketing of PDS kerosene, the Central Government have 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 and have to prominently display stock-cum-price board at the place of business including the place of store at a conspicuous place. Under this Control Order, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in black-marketing and other irregularities.

Further, 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), etc. to check various irregularities/ malpractices like adulteration, diversion etc. of petroleum products.

Public Sector OMCs also undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (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.

Increase in price of petroleum products

129. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of increase in prices of petrol and diesel since January, 2009 till date i.e. January, 2011, increase-wise;

(b) whether public sector oil companies have increased the price of petrol upto Rs. 2.96 on 16 December, 2010 and Rs. 2.54 per litre recently in the month of January, 2011;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for increase in the prices of petrol;

(e) whether such a huge increase will not add fuel to already rising and uncontrolled inflation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) The details of revisions in the prices of Petrol and Diesel from January, 2009 to January 2011 are given below:

(Rs. per litre)

Date of Price revision	Petrol		Diesel	
	Increase/ (Decrease)	Revised Price	Increase /(Decrease)	Revised Price
1	2	3	4	5
Prices as on 01.01.2009		45.62		32.86
29.01.2009	(5.00)	40.62	(2.00)	30.86
02.07.2009	4.00	44.63	2.00	32.87
27.10.2009*	0.09	44.72	0.05	32.92
27.02.2010**	2.71	47.43	2.55	35.47
01.04.2010***	0.50	47.93	2.63	38.10
26.06.2010****	3.50	51.43	2.00	40.10
01.07.2010#	0.02	51.45	0.02	40.12
20.07.2010**	-	-	(2.50)	37.62

1	2	3	4	5
08.09.2010 *	0.11	51.56	0.09	37.71
21.09.2010 (as per IOC)	0.27	51.83	-	-
17.10.2010 (as per IOC)	0.72	52.55	-	-
02.11.2010#	0.04	52.59	0.04	37.75
09.11.2010 (as per IOC)	0.32	52.91	-	-
16.12.2010 (as per IOC)	2.96	55.87	-	-
15.01.2011 (as per IOC)	2.50	58.37	-	-
Current price		58.37	-	37.75

* Price revision on account of revision in Dealer's Commission.

** Due to increase in Custom Duty and Excise Duty on Petrol and Diesel in the Union Budget 2010-11

*** Due to introduction of Euro IV grade of Petrol and Diesel and VAT increased on Diesel by Delhi Government from 12.5% to 20% which was subsequently reduced from 20% to 12.5% effective 20.07.2010.

**** Price of Petrol, both at refinery gate and the retail level, has been made market determined effective 26.06.2010.

Due to revision in Railway's siding /shunting charges.

(d) The Government had taken a decision to make the price of Petrol market-determined, both at refinery gate and at the retail level, effective 26.6.2010. Accordingly, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) increased the retail selling price (RSP) of Petrol by Rs. 3.50 per litre (at Delhi) on 26.6.2010, to bring it in line with the prevailing international parity price. As the international oil prices have been rising in the recent months, the OMCs have been revising the price of Petrol accordingly.

(e) and (f) The Kirit Parikh Committee had observed that, as Petrol is largely an item of final consumption, its price has a very small impact on inflation due to forward linkages.

Talks on Tapi gas pipeline project

130. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of India participated in the Steering Committee meeting on Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project held in the recent past;