

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: