

- All operation at Depots/Terminals and LPG bottling plants carried out under strict and continuous supervision of competent officers;
- Round the clock manning of Refinery units by Central Industrial Security Force (CISF);
- Checking of wagon and tankers by CISF;
- CISF Crime and Intelligence persons patrolling the plant round the clock;
- Electronic Surveillance; and
- Patrolling by local police.

Besides, an Amendment Bill has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 16th March, 2010 for amendment of Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962 to make it more stringent with provisions of deterrent punishment for offenders engaged in pilferage and sabotage of petroleum and gas pipelines.

Proposed deregulation of diesel prices

127. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- whether the deregulation of diesel prices might happen once the inflation stabilized at 6 per cent;
- if so, the details thereof;
- the present position thereof; and
- the views of the experts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (d) The Kirit Parikh Committee had recommended that the price of Diesel may be made market-determined. Government took a decision 'in principle' on 25.06.2010 that its price would be made market-determined, both at Refinery Gate and Retail Level. However, Government continues to modulate the retail selling price of Diesel to protect the consumer from the inflationary impact of rising international oil prices and its current price is below the required market price, resulting in huge under-recovery to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). As per the refinery gate prices effective 16.11.2011, the OMCs are incurring under-recovery of ` 10.17 per litre on the sale of Diesel.

Finalization of priority for KG D-6 gas allocation

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

- whether it is a fact that based on recommendations from Group of Ministries, priority

has been finalized for allocation of KG D-6 gas for various sectors to Gujarat and other States;

(b) whether Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) have been included under the priority to meet their demands;

(c) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested the Ministry to include SME sector in the priority list; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Ministry thereon and action taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In accordance with the priority list decided by the EGoM, KG D6 gas has been allocated on fallback basis, *inter-alia*, to City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities, including in Gujarat, for supply to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) whose total consumption of natural gas, KG D6 gas, does not exceed 50,000 standard cubic metres per day (scmd).

Security at petrol pumps

†129. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps across the country where security and consumer services have been arranged properly as per Government's standards;

(b) the names of persons accountable for abiding by these standards and how much they are being abided by in percentage; and

(c) if it is not satisfactory, the details of arrangements for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) It is the endeavor of the Ministry and the public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to ensure best customer services at all the Retail Outlet (RO) dealerships in the country. The Government and OMCs have jointly framed the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) on the principles of highest business ethics and best customer services. Appropriate corrective actions are taken and value additions are done to keep improving the standards of customer service. To ensure safety at the retail outlet (RO), the staff and the dealers are trained on various safety aspects at regular intervals, ROs are periodically audited by the officers of the concerned Corporation as well as external audit agencies and risk mitigation measures are taken on continuous basis.

(b) and (c) The responsibility for abiding by these standards lies with the dealers of ROs with supervision by the Area Field Officer and concerned Divisional/State offices. In case of any irregularities, action is taken as per MDG.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.