

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the blackmarketing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Due to large subsidy on PDS Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO), misuse of SKO cannot be ruled out by unscrupulous elements. However, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMC) have reported that no cases of black marketing of PDS Kerosene have been detected by them during the last three years.

PDS Kerosene supplies to Kerosene dealers are done on Ex-MI (Marketing Installation) basis by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). Further distribution of PDS kerosene within the State to the ration card holders through ration shops/retailers is controlled and monitored by the State Government. The State Civil Supplies Authorities carry out inspection at Kerosene dealers to ensure that the product uplifted is delivered to the fair price shops and to the intended beneficiaries.

(b) and (c) OMCs have reported that there is no reported case of any nexus between the civil supplies officials and its wholesale kerosene dealers.

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. Further, PDS kerosene released is dyed with blue dye to facilitate detection of PDS kerosene in non-PDS uses. Under this Control Order, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in black-marketing and other irregularities.

Illegal gratification for petrol pumps in Punjab and Haryana

3227. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the concerned regional officials/officers are harassing the candidates/applicants and demanding illegal gratification in the matter of granting their permission/NOC for the installation of petrol pumps in Punjab and Haryana;

(b) if so, whether Government has fixed any stipulated time within which such permission is either to be granted or to be rejected with explanation/reasons;

(c) the number of cases for allotment of petrol pumps pending with the concerned regional officers of Haryana and Punjab, the details thereof alongwith name-wise and date-wise; and

(d) by when the cases shall be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) viz. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have reported that they have not received any complaint in the State of Punjab & Haryana from candidates/applicants regarding harassment by company officers in the matter of grant of permission/No Objection Certificate (NOC) for setting up of Retail Outlet (RO). Further, NOC for the installation of ROs is issued by Deputy Commissioners/District Magistrates of respective Districts in the country including in the State of Punjab & Haryana and not by OMCs.

(b) to (d) The process of setting up of retail outlet dealership involves various steps like scrutiny of applications, evaluation of sites/documents, interviews/selection of dealers, field verification of credentials, issue of Letter of Intent, procurement of land, obtaining necessary Statutory approvals, construction etc. Hence, the materialization of allotment/installation of the ROs after advertisements are fulfilled over a period of time.

There are 463, 69 and 193 pending LOI cases belonging to IOCL, HPCL and BPCL, respectively, pending for commissioning in the State of Punjab and Haryana. These are pending due to non-availability of land for Corpus fund allottees and / or grant of permissions/NOC from various Statutory Authorities and complaints received.

Gas connections for Uttarakhand

†3228. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.