

(b) whether any step has been taken to fix the responsibility in this regard against the erring officials; and;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The estimated loss suffered by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) on account of leakage/seepage in cross country pipelines during the last three years is given here under:-

Name of the OMC	Estimated Loss during 2010-11 (MT)	Estimated Loss during 2011-12 (MT)	Estimated Loss during 2012-13 (MT)
Indian Oil Corporation Limited	1395	27	1137*
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	-	20.9	3.64**
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited	-	-	-

* Upto 31.1.2013

** Upto 31.12.2012

(b) and (c) The OMCs have informed that the losses due to leakage and seepage in cross country pipelines were attributed to 3rd Party activities (pilferage by unscrupulous elements), natural causes (corrosion of pipe metal and cracks in pipelines etc.) and material failure during operation of pipelines.

CCI's query on petrol pricing mechanism

288. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has asked for the details from oil companies on their petrol pricing mechanism to probe the alleged cartelization among them in fixing the fuel price;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CCI had written to the Ministry on this issue but the Ministry said it had no role in deciding the price; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has sent certain queries relating to the pricing of petroleum products including Petrol.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has replied to CCI that the price of Petrol, both at Refinery Gate and at Retail level, was made market determined effective 26.06.2010 based on the recommendations of the Expert Group on 'A Viable and Sustainable System of pricing of Petroleum Products' headed by Dr. Kirit S. Parikh and decision taken in the meeting of the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) on 25.06.2010. Accordingly, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are taking decision on pricing of Petrol at their own. Government has not prescribed any formula for pricing of Petrol.

Malpractices at petrol pumps

289. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of petrol pumps are being run on contract basis;

(b) whether such petrol pumps are being run by relatives of officers of public sector oil companies;

(c) whether cases of adulteration, measuring less oil and other irregularities are being committed at these petrol pumps in connivance with officers of OMCs.

(d) whether Government has conducted any inquiry/review in this regard; and

(e) if so, the outcome of such inquiry/review and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The public sector Oil