

Public Sector OMCs also undertake regular and surprise inspection of Retail Outlets and take action under the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against the outlets found indulging in irregularities/malpractices. The MDG provides for termination of outlets in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals and unauthorized fittings/gears in the dispensing units.

The Government has also 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) to check various irregularities/malpractices at retail outlets of various OMCs.

(d) OMCs have terminated 149 retail outlet dealerships during the last three years and current year (April-June 2013-14) against established cases of adulteration.

Distribution of kerosene

1991. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps the Ministry proposes to take to prevent/reduce rampant corruption in the distribution of kerosene through the PDS;

(b) whether the Ministry plans to switch over to LPG in a phased manner with suitable costing formula to avoid the corruption; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) 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 is delivered through the fair price shops to the intended beneficiaries. In order to check the black marketing/ diversion 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 which

stipulates 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.

Field Officers of OMCs also inspect the Kerosene Dealerships and check for irregularities like non-observance of Government/OMCs regulations, over charging, unauthorized purchase and stock variation. In case of any irregularities, action is taken as per the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

OMCs have hosted a web portal which enables public access to the movement of PDS Kerosene tank trucks. It provides details of the tank truck movement carrying PDS Kerosene from their Dispatch Units/Depots/ Installations to the various dealers along with their names, invoice number, quantity of product, time of dispatch, tank truck number, etc. on the websites on real time basis.

(b) and (c) The Government has formulated Vision-2015 with the target to raise the country's LPG coverage from 50% to 75% by releasing 5.5 crore new LPG connections by the year 2015 and the focus would be on areas where LPG coverage is low.

Portability of LPG distributorships

†1992. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to allow a customer to change the LPG distributor agency in order to empower LPG consumers and to reign in the LPG distributors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which said scheme is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) To provide customer greater choice to select his distributor intra company portability has been started on a pilot basis in Chandigarh.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.