

plastic waste into liquid hydrocarbon composite. The scientists converted ' plastic waste into liquid products (including gases) in the presence of catalytic additive. However, presence of chlorine and high diene level in the products and presence of solid residuals was noted. Economic viability of any of the products so obtained has not yet been established. The Scientific Advisory Committee on Hydrocarbon of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, to whom a proposal for establishment of a demonstration plant was referred in November, 2003, did not find the proposal in present shape as suitable for funding.

Adulteration In petroleum product

1431. SHRI SANJAY RAJARAM RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether It Is a fact that there are large scale malpractices such as adulteration, underweighing etc. being done by the petrol pumps, LPG, Kerosene dealers as well as other dealers of petroleum products In the country; and

(b) If so, what corrective measures have been taken or are proposed to be taken to curb these malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The possibility of adulteration of Petrol and Diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out owing to the price difference between Petrol/Diesel and other adulterants available in the market like Kerosene, Solvents etc., and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol and Diesel.

(b) Government is committed to supplying clean and unadulterated fuel In correct quantity to customers. In order to reduce, minimize and eventually eliminate adulteration, as well as to prevent other malpractices, the following Important steps have been taken:-

- * Government have issued Control Orders under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to prevent the misuse of petroleum products for adulteration of auto fuels, and other malpractices. These Orders provide power of search and seizure to the officers of the State Governments and Oil Marketing Companies.
- * Oil Marketing Companies undertake regular Inspections of Retail

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Outlets and take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines and/or Dealership Agreement against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. Penalty of termination of dealership is invoked in established cases of adulteration.

- * Oil Marketing Companies have also introduced new tamper proof tank-truck locking systems to prevent en route adulteration by transporters.
- * Trials are being conducted for introduction of Marker System.
- * The import of SKO has been canalized through Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies.
- * IT solutions like monitoring movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS) and monitoring level of fuel tanks in Retail Outlets through retail automation are being Introduced.
- * Branding of Retail Outlets and third party certification of Retail Outlets have been initiated.

Investment by Oil and ONGC In Assam

1432. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state that what percentage of profit made by Oil India Limited/ONGC has been Invested for the all round development of the area surrounding their project in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): During the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04, Oil India Limited (OIL) have provided Rs. 301.43 lakh, Rs. 319.96 lakh and Rs. 447.59 lakh respectively for all round development of the areas surrounding their project In Assam. These amounts constituted 0.57%, 0.35% and 0.47% of profit made by the company during the corresponding period.

Similarly Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) have provided Rs. 497 lakh towards Socio-Economic Development in Assam during the same period *i.e.* from the year 2001-02 to 2003-04 though the Corporation have not been making any profit out of its operations in the State of Assam.