

- (i) Terminal dues such as Gratuity, Contributory Provident Fund (CPF), Composite Social Security scheme (CSSS), Post Retirement Benefit Scheme (PRBS) payable to family members have been released.
- (ii) Letters of Intent for giving Employment assistance to one of the dependent family members have already been issued to the widows of the deceased employee.

Bringing petrol, diesel and petro-products under GST

603. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on bringing petrol, diesel and petro-products under the GST net;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken the views of the State Governments in this regard, if so, the suggestions made by the State Governments; and
- (d) the stand of the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Clause 12 A of Article 366 of the Constitution defines 'Goods and Services Tax' (GST) as "any tax on supply of goods or services or both except taxes on the supply of alcoholic liquor for human consumption". Further Article 279A (5) provides that Goods and Services Tax Council shall recommend the date on which goods and services tax shall be levied on petroleum crude, high speed diesel, motor spirit, natural gas and aviation turbine fuel. Thus while, petroleum products are included under GST, the date on which GST shall be levied on such goods shall be as per the decision of the GST Council, which has representation of Ministers-in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all States and Union Territories with Legislature.

Illegal installations of chips in fuel dispensers

604. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that quite a few petrol pumps in some States have illegally installed a chip in the dispensers to reduce the quantity of out flow than the actual measurement while dispensing;

(b) if so, the States where such illegal practices by petrol pumps have been detected;

(c) what action Government is proposing to take to deal with such petrol pump owners who have been caught cheating the public; and

(d) what measures Government is proposing to take to ensure that such malpractices and cheating acts are kept under check?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that during the month of April, 2017, some retail outlet dealerships in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra were found to be involved in dispensing less quantity of petrol/diesel to the customers by manipulating the dispensing units (DUs).

(c) OMCs have informed that they have terminated 155 retail outlets on account of detection of unauthorized chips/fittings in the DUs during the last three years and the current year (April-December, 2017), across the country.

(d) The Government has directed OMCs that there should be absolute zero tolerance in cases of malpractices including systematic short selling to the consumers. The OMCs have also been instructed to take strict action against the Retail Outlets, resorting to such malpractices including exploring the option of terminating the contract.

To ensure correct quantity is delivered to consumers, Chief Secretaries/Administrator of States/UTs have been advised to conduct a Special Drive/surprise inspections across the respective State/UT and set up a number of special teams consisting of officials from STF, Legal Metrology, Civil Supplies and OMCs.

The following concrete action has been taken by OMCs to prevent manipulations in dispensing units:-

(i) **Systemic improvement**

- New specification incorporated for procurement of MPDs with tamper proof pulsars
- In addition, specification for up gradation of old pulsar units by self destructive pulsar units has been finalized for existing MPDs and Dual units
- OMCs are working with legal Metrology department for improvement in control over the sealing process.

(ii) Administrative measures

- Amendments in MDG have been implemented by OMCs with effect from 02.10.2017 with stringent penalty provisions in case of various irregularities like short delivery, unauthorized operation of automated retail outlet in manual mode etc.

(iii) Concept of end to Automation

- OMCs are formulating an end to end Automation in Retail Marketing right from filling tank lorry at terminal till retail outlet operations.

Setting up of LPG bottling plant at tehsil Bairia in Uttar Pradesh

605. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IOCL had surveyed the land at NH 31 at Chanddiar, tehsil Bairia, district Ballia, Uttar Pradesh for setting up of LPG bottling plant and had found it suitable for the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for inordinate delay in setting up the said bottling plant so far at the surveyed location;

(d) whether due to some vested interests, said plant is being set up at some other location; and

(e) if so, the action proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (e) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) has informed that a preliminary assessment of suitability of land at NH31 at Chanddeer, Tehsil Bairia, District Ballia, Uttar Pradesh for setting up of LPG bottling plant was carried out on 14.10.2016. The said land was not found suitable for setting up of LPG bottling plant.

Increase in price of diesel

606. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether price of diesel has reached at a historically record highest level during the month of January, 2018;

(b) if so, the details thereof;