

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2050  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2022

Petrol adulteration in rural areas

2050 # Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena:

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has come to know about adulteration in petrol in rural areas in the country;
- (b) whether such adulteration in petrol and diesel is the primary reason for vehicular pollution in the country;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to stop the adulteration in petrol and diesel; and
- (d) the number of petrol and diesel filling stations closed or sealed due to supply of adulterated fuel across the country, public sector oil company-wise?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)

- (a) to (c) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are aware of problem of adulteration in petrol/diesel in the country including in rural areas and have adequate monitoring mechanism for identifying and checking adulteration. It is a continuous process and OMCs have been taking various steps/methods to curb adulteration to ensure that end customers get the right quality and quantity. Established cases of adulteration are classified as 'Critical irregularities' under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and in such cases the retail outlet dealerships are terminated in first instance itself by OMCs.

Various initiatives and methods have been adopted by OMCs as per MDG and the Dealership Agreement, to curb adulteration, which includes:

- (i) Making available Filter Paper, Calibrated Density Equipment (Hydrometer/Thermometer) & 5 Liter Calibrated Measure at the Retail Outlets for checking quality & quantity of MS/HSD.

- (ii) Conducting Regular/Surprise inspections at Retail Outlets by OMC Field Officers/ Senior Officers/Mobile labs throughout the country. In case of irregularities, action is taken as per the MDG and dealership agreement.
- (iii) Creation of a separate Quality Assurance Cell (QAC) for carrying out inspections.
- (iv) Drawing of samples from petrol pumps at random and sending for testing to authorized laboratories.
- (v) Sealing of tankers before leaving company premises to protect against pilferage/adulteration en-route.
- (vi) Installation of GPS to monitor movement of Tank Trucks carrying MS / HSD.
- (vii) Conducting Third Party Audit of Retail Outlets by OMCs for effective monitoring and benchmarking.
- (viii) Ongoing automation of Retail Outlets by OMCs which enable the real-time capture of sales transaction and monitoring of tank stocks and receipts.

At present, there is no available report or study to conclude that adulteration in petrol and diesel is the primary reason for vehicle pollution in the country.

- (d) Public Sector OMCs have terminated 20 number of Retail Outlets (ROs) on the established cases of adulteration which includes 10 number of ROs of HPCL and 5 number of ROs each of BPCL & IOCL during the period from 2018-19 to 2021-22 (upto December' 2021).

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