

- (ii) revision of Marketing Discipline Guidelines making them more stringent,
- (iii) introduction of new tamper proof tank-truck locking system.

Under the provisions of various Control Orders issued under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, State Governments have been empowered to deal with cases of adulteration.

Import of transport fuel

2272. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 73 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government have decided to canalise the import of transport fuel through companies instead of free import policy; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATISUMITRAMAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Before 1.4.2003, import of transportations fuels was allowed through IOC as State Trading Enterprise. Presently, IOCL as State Trading Enterprise and the companies who have been granted rights for marketing of transportation fuels in terms of Resolution No. P-23015/1/2001-Mkt dated 8.3.2002 of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, including HPCL, BPCL and IBP who have been marketing transportation fuels before this date, could import transportation fuels. In a deregulated scenario, direct imports of transportations fuels by the aforesaid companies is likely to bring in competition in the domestic market.

LPG agencies in Gujarat

†2273. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IOC, BPCL, HPCL or IBP propose to start LPG agencies in the cities of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[23 December, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRAMAHAJAN): (a) to (c) As on 1.10.2003, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 515 LPG distributorships in the State of Gujarat. Consequent upon the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), Government have allowed OMCs to set up LPG distributorships at new locations as per their commercial considerations in all the States including Gujarat.

Products missing from HPCL Refinery

2274. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the audit authority has found that finished oil products worth Rs. 89 crores went missing from HPCL Mumbai Refinery; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Oil which had partially been consumed as internal fuel, lying in sludge, pipeline fill or transferred to marketing terminals was found to be wrongly recorded as lying in refinery tanks. This inventory variation amounted to Rs. 84.8 crore for a quantum of 70.6 thousand metric tonnes of inventories and was detected during a physical verification of inventories last year in October, 2002. No evidence of theft/pilferage was found

Disciplinary action has been initiated by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited against the employees responsible for wrong recording of inventories. Producers/controls in oil movement and storage area have been strengthened by the Company.