

(e) State Governments have been requested to remove bottlenecks in setting up of ethanol projects, to simplify excise procedures and to reduce State levies on sale, import/export of ethanol.

New Policy on setting up of oil outlets

1734. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any policy relating to locations where sister OIL PSUs can set-up diesel and petrol outlets in different States;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have given free licence to Oil PSUs to setup petrol pumps and diesel outlets wherever they wish;

(c) if so, the details of this new policy giving absolute freedom to Oil PSUs;

(d) whether Government are aware that allottees of PSU petrol pumps will suffer grievously if there is no restriction in this matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the public sector oil marketing companies have freedom to choose locations for setting up retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps) in various parts of the country provided that the locations meet certain norms like commercial viability and non-encroachment of the existing dealerships.

Production of ethanol in Karnataka

1735. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of anhydrous ethanol being produced by sugar factories in Karnataka;

(b) the details of the districts in Karnataka which have been covered by ethanol blended petrol so far;

(c) by when the entire Karnataka will be covered; and

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(d) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that all sugar factories in Karnataka produce anhydrous ethanol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Ethanol is a derivative of sugarcane molasses which is a decontrolled item. Further, anhydrous ethanol is procured by oil industry from the producers on tender basis. Therefore, exact details about capacity or of production would not be available with the Ministry.

(b) Supply of ethanol doped petrol has commenced in the following districts of Karnataka:—

Uttar Kanara, Dakshin Kanara, Udipi, Shimoga, Chickmagalur, Hassan, Chitradurga, Davangere, Haveri, Bellary, Koppal, Kodagu, Mysore, Mandya, Chamrajnagar, Belgaum, Dharwad, Gadag, Bijapur and Bagalkot.

(c) The entire State of Karnataka would be covered by 30.9.2003.

(d) Production of anhydrous ethanol would be a commercial decision by the concerned producers and hence all sugar factories may not be producing anhydrous alcohol.

Diversion of LPG cylinders for commercial purpose

1736. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred question 2121 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th March, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the particulars of LPG distributors found diverting domestic LPG cylinders for commercial use in Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai were published in the local newspapers for the information of general public;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what specific penal action was taken against the guilty distributors and the number of cases in which agencies were withdrawn from such distributors during the last three years togetherwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.