

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 129**  
ANSWERED ON - 25/11/2024

**ADULTERATION OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS**

129 SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

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

- (a) whether public sector oil marketing companies receive complaints of adulteration of petroleum products on a regular basis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the nature of such complaints;
- (c) whether as compared to the number of complaints received, only a minuscule number of retail outlets have been terminated; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor including vigilance and monitoring augmented at retail outlets?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
(SHRI SURESH GOPI)

- (a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) periodically receive complaints related to fuel quality including adulteration of petroleum products. OMCs have received 4103 complaints related to fuel quality including adulteration during last 3 years (2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24) and current year (April, 2024 to Sep, 2024). Complaints received are looked into and punitive action is taken in established cases by OMCs as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreement.

Established cases of adulteration are classified as “critical irregularity” under MDG 2024 and in such cases, the Retail Outlet dealership is terminated in the first instance itself by OMCs. OMCs have terminated 10 Retail Outlet (RO) dealerships against established cases of adulteration during last three years (2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24) and current year (April, 2024 to Sep, 2024).

Central Government, from time to time, has issued various control orders under the Essential Commodities Act like Motor Spirit (MS) / High Speed Diesel (HSD) Control Order, Kerosene Control Order, Naphtha Control Order, Solvent, Raffinate and Slop Control Order etc. with a view to preventing adulteration in petroleum products.

OMCs have adequate monitoring mechanisms for identifying and checking adulteration. This is a continuous process and OMCs have been taking various steps/methods to curb adulteration. The important initiatives taken in this regard inter alia include :

- (i) Availability of filter paper, calibrated density equipment (hydrometer / thermometer) & 5 liter calibrated measure for quality checks and delivery of correct quantity of MS/HSD.
- (ii) Regular / surprise inspections at Retail Outlets by OMCs' field officers/ Sr. Officers/Mobile laboratory throughout the country. In case of any irregularities including established adulteration, action is taken as per the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreement.
- (iii) Surprise inspections by Quality Reassurance Cell (QRC) team of OMCs.
- (iv) Random sampling from Retail Outlets for testing at authorized laboratories.
- (v) Surprise inspections by OMC Mobile labs, wherein samples of petrol and diesel from Retail Outlets are drawn and tested.
- (vi) Sealing of Tank trucks before leaving Company premises to protect against pilferage / adulteration enroute. Tamper proof locking system has been introduced in tank trucks delivering petrol / diesel at Retail Outlets. A 3-tier sampling system is followed to help ascertain the point where adulteration could have taken place.
- (vii) Automation of all active Retail Outlets to capture the data for better monitoring of RO operations. OMCs have completed automation at 79209 Retail Outlets out of total 83080 Retail Outlets as on 30.09.2024.

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