

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 781
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02/12/2024

KEROSENE USAGE IN WEST BENGAL

781. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

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

- (a) Whether West Bengal consumes the highest amount of kerosene in the country, and if so, its share of the national consumption and State-wise breakdown of kerosene consumption;
- (b) whether the Ministry is aware of misuse and black marketing of kerosene in West Bengal;
- (c) whether Government has taken cognizance of claims that kerosene is largely consumed by illegal Bangladeshi immigrants;
- (d) the measures being implemented to curb such misuse and improve monitoring and distribution to ensure intended beneficiaries receive it; and
- (e) the initiatives promoting alternative, cleaner fuels to reduce kerosene dependence in rural and border areas?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) Government of India makes allocation of “Public Distribution System (PDS) Kerosene” to States/UTs including West Bengal on quarterly basis for cooking and lighting purpose.

The allocation of PDS SKO to different States/UTs during the year 2023-24 is given at Annexure.

During the year 2023-24, the State of West Bengal was allocated 7,04,016 KL of PDS SKO which is 66.38% of the total allocation of 10,60,524 KL made to States/UTs across the country. The Government of India has issued the Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order 1993, as amended from time to time, inter alia, restricting sale of Kerosene under Public Distribution System to cooking and illumination purposes only to eligible consumers at a price fixed by the Government or Government Oil Companies.

The distribution of PDS Kerosene within the States/UTs under PDS network is carried out by the concerned States/UTs including the state of West Bengal. Scale, criteria, modalities etc. of distribution to end customers are also determined by the respective State/UT. It is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Government to ensure that the allocated quantity is distributed to the intended beneficiary only.

The Government of West Bengal has informed that the SKO (Superior Kerosene Oil) allocated by the Government of India to the State is being distributed through SKO shops under Public Distribution System (PDS). The Government of Bengal has further informed that only ration card holders are entitled to receive SKO and distribution of SKO is monitored and supervised by the District Controllers of Food and Supplies Department and surprise inspections are also done by field level officers of District Controller, Food and Supplies Department and District authorities besides regular inspections and raids by enforcement branch of the State to curb the misuse of SKO.

The Government of India launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) in May, 2016 with an objective to provide deposit free LPG connection to adult women from poor households across the country including rural and border areas. With the consistent efforts of the Government of India, the LPG coverage in the country including West Bengal is near saturation. There are 32.83 crore domestic active LPG consumers in the country including 10.33 crore PMUY consumers. To serve these consumers, PSU OMCs have a network of 25,532 LPG distributors spread across the country. Besides LPG connections, 1.35 Crore Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections have also been provided to domestic households across the country including West Bengal.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Rajya Sabha unstarred question No. 781 to be answered on 02.12.2024 asked by Shri Samik Bhattacharya, on “Kerosene usage in West Bengal”.

(Figures in KL)

| S.No. | State | Allocation made in FY 2023-24 | Percentage of total allocation made in FY 2023-24 |
|-------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 | West Bengal | 704016 | 66.38% |
| 2 | Bihar | 63840 | 6.02% |
| 3 | Odisha | 51888 | 4.89% |
| 4 | Assam | 49776 | 4.69% |
| 5 | Madhya Pradesh | 32880 | 3.10% |
| 6 | Tamil Nadu | 32544 | 3.07% |
| 7 | Jharkhand | 26976 | 2.54% |
| 8 | Chhattisgarh | 16560 | 1.56% |
| 9 | Jammu and Kashmir | 15312 | 1.44% |
| 10 | Tripura | 14256 | 1.34% |
| 11 | Meghalaya | 10704 | 1.01% |
| 12 | Karnataka | 8832 | 0.83% |
| 13 | Kerala | 7776 | 0.73% |
| 14 | Maharashtra | 7488 | 0.71% |
| 15 | Nagaland | 4848 | 0.46% |
| 16 | Manipur | 4464 | 0.42% |
| 17 | Arunachal Pradesh | 2064 | 0.19% |
| 18 | Himachal Pradesh | 2016 | 0.19% |
| 19 | Ladakh | 1392 | 0.13% |
| 20 | Mizoram | 1296 | 0.12% |
| 21 | Sikkim | 912 | 0.09% |
| 22 | Telangana | 384 | 0.04% |
| 23 | Lakshadweep | 288 | 0.03% |
| 24 | Uttarakhand | 12 | 0.00% |

Note: Rest of the States/UTs have become PDS Kerosene free and hence, no allocation made.

Source : MoP&NG