

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. - 934
ANSWERED ON – 28/07/2025

FIRE SAFETY MEASURES AND SECURITY AUDITS TO PREVENT INCIDENTS OF FIRE

934. # SHRI GOVINDBHAI LALJIBHAI DHOLAKIA:

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

- (a) whether the Central Government has taken steps in collaboration with the State Governments and relevant stakeholders to ensure that all petrol and gas stations are equipped with adequate fire safety measures to prevent incidents of fire;
- (b) whether Government plans to make fire safety audit mandatory for every petrol and gas station; and
- (c) whether Government is considering to make fire safety training compulsory for staff at petrol and gas stations so that they can manage fire emergencies effectively?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has notified PNGRB (Technical Standards and Specifications including Safety Standards for Dispensing of Automotive Fuels) Regulations, 2018, which, inter alia, includes provisions with respect to fire prevention & protection facilities at Retail outlets (RO) dispensing Automotive fuels such as Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD), Auto Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Auto LPG), Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), Liquefied Compressed Natural Gas (LCNG) and their variants. As per the said regulation, any entity which intends to set up a retail outlet, shall make available its plan including design consideration conforming to these Regulations to Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) for its approval. Further, PNGRB has notified (Codes of Practices for Emergency Response and Disaster Management Plan (ERDMP)) Regulations, 2010, under which entities owning ROs shall ensure the availability of emergency control systems and facilities which includes Fire protection & Firefighting system, etc.

The PNGRB Technical Standards and Specifications including Safety Standards mandate the following measures:

- i. Annual safety audit by an officer of the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) or its authorised representative.
- ii. Electrical safety audit once every three years.
- iii. Weekly safety checks by the dealership or operating personnel.
- iv. Mock Drills conducted on quarterly basis as mandated in PNGRB – ERDMP regulations.

These provisions collectively ensure regular monitoring and adherence to safety norms, including fire safety, at petrol and gas stations.

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have informed that resources for fire safety are provided at their ROs as per PESO Guidelines. A Retail Outlet is commissioned only after strictly following stipulations as laid out in Petroleum Rules 2002, as amended from time to time. After compliance with the said stipulations, PESO grants license to OMCs to operate the RO. Further, the PSU OMCs strive to maintain these standards by means of regular and surprise inspections, and strict action is taken as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) in case deficiencies are noticed.

- (c) PNGRB (Codes of Practices for Emergency Response and Disaster Management Plan (ERDMP)) Regulations, 2010, mandates imparting of training and refresher courses to all the personnel (including employees, contract workers, transport crew and security personnel) likely to be involved directly or indirectly in emergency handling at Retail Outlets.

PSU OMCs also provide regular training on safety aspects to the dealers & the petrol pump employees. This is part of the annual audit conducted by OMC Officers. Periodic check-up of all fire-fighting systems available at the outlet are made by competent agencies and corrective action is taken immediately if required.
