

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. - 4131
ANSWERED ON – 30/03/2026

**FUEL ADULTERATION DETECTED IN PETROL AND DIESEL ACROSS THE
COUNTRY**

4131 SHRI A. D. SINGH:

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

- (a) the extent of fuel adulteration detected in petrol and diesel across the country in recent years;
- (b) the measures being taken to prevent adulteration, including monitoring mechanisms, quality checks and penalties for offenders;
- (c) the role of technology such as fuel quality sensors and digital tracking in curbing adulteration;
- (d) the impact of these measures on consumer protection and environmental safety; and
- (e) the details of coordination between Government, oil marketing companies and law enforcement agencies to ensure fuel quality?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have formulated and implemented Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) for checking irregularities or malpractices at Retail Outlet (RO) Dealerships to ensure quality and quantity of fuel at retail outlets. Action is taken in case of established irregularities against erring dealers as per MDG guidelines and the Dealership agreement. MDG guidelines are available at website: <https://iocl.com/marketing-discipline-guidelines>.

The Central Government has also issued the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply, Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 2005 under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 which provides for punitive action against malpractices such as adulteration of petroleum products. Further, in June, 2022, the Government has extended the scope of Universal Service Obligations (USOs) to all retail outlets including remote area retail outlets. USOs have been prescribed so that authorized entities provide quality and uninterrupted fuel supply services to the consumers.

OMCs have a system in place to check various types of malpractices and irregularities at their ROs. 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/ Senior Officers/ Quality Reassurance Cell (QRC) teams throughout the country. In case of irregularities, action is taken as per the MDG and Dealership Agreement.
- (iii) Surprise inspections by OMC Mobile labs, wherein samples of petrol and diesel from Retail Outlets are drawn and tested.
- (iv) Dispensing units are periodically calibrated and sealed by the Weights and Measure Department to ensure correct quantity and to avoid the tampering of the dispensing units.
- (v) Random sampling from Retail Outlets for testing at authorized laboratories.
- (vi) Installation of GPS to monitor movement of Tank Trucks carrying MS/ HSD.
- (vii) 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.
- (viii) Automation of all active Retail Outlets to capture the data for better monitoring of RO operations.

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have terminated 21 Retail outlet dealerships against established cases of adulteration during last five years and current financial year{2020-21 to 2025-26 (Till February,2026)}.

To prevent manual manipulation of Fuel Dispensers (DUs), OMCs install state of art DUs with high accuracy metering units as per Legal Metrology Rules, and the DUs have latest security features including audit trails which help in ensuring correct quantity is dispensed from the DU and is available for inspection. Further, the Retail Outlets are equipped with Auto Tank Gauge systems (ATG) which is integrated with Automation. In case of water seepage into tanks, the ATG detects the water presence upto defined threshold level and activate interlock which stops all sales from that tank. This ensures water free product goes into customers' fuel tanks.

OMCs have introduced Tamper proof Electro-Mechanical locks for sealing Tank Trucks (TT) delivering MS/HSD from Depots to Retail outlets. Besides, Vehicle Tracking System (VTS) is mounted on the Tank Trucks. The Electro-Mechanical Locks fitted on the TTs can be opened only in the designated geofenced areas, thereby ensuring digital security of the product.

The latitude and longitude along with geofenced area of suspected points are identified through VTS system. TT movements are continuously monitored by OMCs through VTS, to detect any stoppages at such locations, and if detected, the VTS data is then scrutinized by the concerned Location and action is taken against the TT/Transporter as per the Industry Transport Discipline Guidelines.

The Monitoring mechanisms in place along with Automation systems and modern updated DUs ensure that customers get correct Quality / Quantity product at Retail Outlets. Tank truck decantation through cam lock couplings, modernized dispensing units and Vapour Recovery Systems installed at eligible outlets in accordance with Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) guidelines ensure there are no spillages & leakages and that vapour emission is minimised, thereby reducing air pollution. These measures significantly enhance environmental safety at retail outlets.
