

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION Dy. NO.1526
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13THFEBRUARY, 2025

Diesel leakage at HPCL Depot, Elathur, Kerala

1526. Shri M K Raghavan:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) whether the Government has noticed the recent diesel leakage at HPCL Depot in Elathur, Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the causes of the leakage assessed environmental impact and the estimated loss of revenue due to the incident;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to implement measures to prevent environmental damage and contamination of nearby water bodies or soil due to such incidents across the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any investigation or inquiry have been conducted by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) into this incident; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
(श्री सुरेश गोपी)

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

- (a) and (b) A minor overflow of High Speed Diesel (HSD) from an underground tank during testing of level alarm on 04.12.2024 due to malfunctioning of servo gauge connected to safety inter-lock system for overfill protection was observed at HPCL Depot in Elathur, Kerala. Upon being noticed, the tank valve was closed immediately. However, by this time, a limited quantity of product had seeped to the drain outside the depot. All necessary actions were thereafter taken for the off-site emergency. Vigorous steps were taken to control the overflow and recover the product spilled into the drain using non-sparking and flame-proof equipment. Additionally, oil spill dispersant was deployed in the area adjacent to the depot to ensure no oil traces remained in nearby water sources. To minimize environmental impact, water-based bio-degradable oil spill dispersant approved by National Institute of Oceanography, Goa was used until the oil film was completely dispersed into biodegradable sludge. The surrounding area was continuously inspected after the dispersant was deployed and stopped only after

confirming that no oil traces remained. HPCL's Elathur Depot has completely recovered all the product traces from nearby areas.

(c) and (d) Oil Terminals and Depots are built as per Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) Standards and operate under permissions from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Oil Spill Response mandated by respective port authorities including over spill protection systems to prevent such incidents.

(e) and (f) As per Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), the incident at HPCL's Elathur Depot was classified as a minor incident in accordance with the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Code of Practices for Emergency Response and Disaster Management Plan (ERDMP)) Regulation 2010. Therefore, in accordance with the said regulation, no investigation was conducted by PNGRB.
