

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION Dy. NO.1558
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH FEBRUARY, 2025

ACUTE SHORTAGE OF PETROL, DIESEL AND LPG IN NICOBAR DISTRICT

1558. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) whether it is true that the vehicular and other consumers in Nicobar district frequently face acute shortage of petrol, diesel and LPG supply;
- (b) if so, the details of the shortage, including the extent and duration of the deficiency;
- (c) the reasons for the recurring or ongoing shortage of fuel in the Nicobar district;
- (d) whether any steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration and the Union Government to address the shortage by ensuring uninterrupted fuel supply in the region and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether there is any long-term plan to resolve the deficiency permanently and if so, the details thereof along with the proposed infrastructure or supply chain improvements?

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) to (e) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) has informed that demand for Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant (POL) products in Nicobar is met through 2 Retail Outlets (ROs) of IOCL which have storage capacity with 75 days coverage. In addition, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited (ANIDCO), an Administration run Public Undertaking has Retail Outlets in Kamorta, Teressa, Katchal and Great Nicobar. Petroleum products to ROs are supplied through a dedicated IOCL POL Terminal located at Haddo, Port Blair. Further, the LPG Bottling plant at Port Blair has adequate capacity (rated capacity 15 TMT/PA) to meet the demand (13.8 TMT in FY23-24 for UT of Andaman & Nicobar) of Nicobar Islands. For streamlined distribution, Tribal Development Cooperative Society (TDCS) has been nominated as LPG distributor in Nancowry group of Islands.

Supply of Petroleum products to the various islands of Nicobar district is executed through Barrel ISO-Containers which are loaded through ship provided by private ship operators that carry POL products along with others with average turnaround time of 15-20 days subject to weather conditions. However, the positioning of POL products and LPG is fully dependent on the vessel schedule program arranged by the private companies which sometimes does not coincide with IOCL's requirement due weather extremities or ship maintenance issues.

IOCL has taken several initiatives to mitigate the chances of dry out of POL products including supply of Motor Spirit (MS)/High Speed Diesel(HSD) through 4 KL ISO containers ensuring supply of higher quantity of product to the retail outlets, which was supplied in barrels till 03.08.2023. Also, one multi modal barge has been put into operations that is dedicated for carrying HSD & High Flash High Speed Diesel (HFHSD) (Diesel and Bunker Fuel) to expedite fast movement of POL products to various islands.

Expansion of Retail Outlet and LPG network by PSU OMCs is a continuous process to ensure adequate availability MS/HSD and LPG throughout the country including Andaman and Nicobar Islands. ROs/LPG distributorships are set up by PSU OMCs at identified locations based on field survey and feasibility studies.
