

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3095
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th December, 2025

Installation of Firefighting and Emergency Response Systems at all Petrol Pumps

3095. SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA:

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has assessed the current status of firefighting and emergency response systems installed at all petrol pumps both new and existing, particularly those located in rural villages, border areas and near refineries across the Amritsar district and other border belts across the country, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Ministry along with concerned Departments proposes to conduct risk assessments and mock drills in these high-risk zones, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether emergency preparedness protocols are being implemented to address fire outbreaks or chemical hazards, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether petrol pumps and refineries are adequately equipped with modern automatic firefighting systems, trained personnel, fire sensors and preventive monitoring mechanisms, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Ministry to ensure the safety of civilians and property in the event of explosions or any such mishaps?

ANSWER

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री
(श्री सुरेश गोपी)

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

(a) to (e) 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) and their variants. As per the said regulations, any entity which intends to set up a retail outlet, is required to 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.

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have informed that adequate resources for fire safety are provided at their Retail Outlets (ROs) [petrol pumps] both new and existing, including those located in rural villages, border areas and near refineries across the Amritsar district and other border belts across the country in all State/ UT as per Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) Guidelines. A RO is commissioned only after strictly following stipulations as laid out in Petroleum Rules 2002, as amended from time to time. After compliance with all the said stipulations, PESO grants license to Public Sector OMCs to operate the RO. Further, the Public Sector OMCs strive to maintain these standards by means of regular and surprise inspection, and strict action is taken as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) in case deficiencies are noticed.

PNGRB (Codes of Practices for Emergency Response and Disaster Management Plan (ERDMP) Regulations, 2010, mandate 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 ROs. Public Sector OMCs also provide regular training on safety aspects to petrol pump dealers and their staff. Periodic check-up of all fire-fighting systems available at retail outlets are checked and corrective action is taken immediately, if required.

Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA) studies are carried out at Refineries and for various category of Petrol Pumps based on combinations of products handled at these Petrol Pumps, which help assess risks and guide measures to protect nearby people and property.

Further, refineries are equipped with modern automatic firefighting systems, trained personnel, fire sensors and preventive monitoring mechanisms as stipulated under various applicable statutory, regulatory and Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) standard requirements.

Emergency preparedness and firefighting arrangements are designed and installed not only to protect unit personnel and assets but also to ensure the safety of neighbouring communities and prevent collateral damage to civilian property. Awareness programs are conducted periodically for local communities and schools in nearby areas to ensure public awareness of safety procedures. Onsite-cum-Offsite drills are also carried out in the presence of District authorities and mutual aid partners.

District authorities are also invited to witness preparedness in handling various emergencies during the on-site disaster management drills and suggestions, if any are included in emergency preparedness plan.

These provisions collectively ensure regular monitoring and adherence to safety norms including fire safety at ROs.
