

Press Note

It has been brought to the notice of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board about regular pilferage from petroleum product pipelines. This poses a major risk to general public living in the vicinity apart from the avoidable loss to the concerned entities.

The Board in this regard has drawn the attention of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to include the provision of Section 49 of the PNGRB Act, 2006 in Section 57(3) listing offences under certain sections of the Act cognizable. The Board has also written to all State Chief Secretaries drawing their attention to the provision of Section 49 of the said Act and requesting them to issue circular instructions to the law enforcement authorities for taking prompt action in case of deliberate damage to or theft from pipelines passing through their respective states. It was also pointed out to the Chief Secretaries that the lacunae of the offence under the said Section not being cognizable under Section 57 (3) need not be a hindrance to taking deterrent action against the criminal elements indulging in such crimes by pointing out that the provision of the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 can be invoked in such cases for detaining such culprits apart from that the action can also be initiated against the offenders under a number of other Acts including the IPC to ensure that this menace is curbed timely and effectively.

All entities engaged in this sector are advised to take necessary steps to ensure integrity of the pipeline systems.