

# Not time yet to slash oil prices

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THE Government has no plans to reduce oil prices following the recent drop in the price of oil in the world market.

Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry parliamentary secretary Hoo Seong Chang said the Government had subsidised oil, especially diesel, when world oil prices were going up.

"Although the prices have now dropped, the Government is still giving subsidies to fuel," he said when answering a supplementary question by Datuk Raja Ahmad Zainuddin Raja Omar (BN-Larut).

Hoo said oil prices were determined by a Cabinet committee chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"The committee will discuss whether it is time to increase or slash oil prices," he said.

Earlier, Hoo said the ministry had received over 13,000 complaints from consumers through the e-complaint system, under the Smart Consumer Campaign that was launched last year.

"Last year alone, we received

7,364 complaints and this year, there were 5,915 complaints as of Monday (Nov 21)," he said.

He also said surveys done in roadshows resulted in 83% of consumers becoming aware of their rights.

On the number of controlled price items under the ministry, Hoo said there were 21 permanent items and 25 festive season items.

He also said the ministry had carried out 140,378 checks on business premises and found 739 of them did not follow regulations.

In his reply to Fadillah Yusof's (BN-Petra Jaya) supplementary question, Hoo said the ministry had set up offices in 138 districts and three Parliamentary constituencies apart from the main offices in Kuala Lumpur and at state levels.

"The minister (Datuk Shafie Apdal) has also ordered us to foster closer ties with district consumer councils to carry out the duties of the ministry," said Hoo.