

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding cutting down of Cess charged on fuel.

**SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE (BARAMATI):** I stand here today to draw the attention of the Ministry of Commerce as the Whole Sale Price Index from November 2020-21 has risen exponentially by 14.21 per cent, and due to that, the food and fuel prices have really gone up. The prices of diesel and petrol have crossed over Rs.100 in various States. The LPG cylinder has reached over Rs.850 as well. Even the circumstances, which are right now globally faced, which is what is happening in Russia and Ukraine, are going to impact our lives exceptionally and it is really going to put the economy under a lot of pressure.

The Consumer Affairs Department says that between 2018 and 2021 – I will give 2-3 examples –the cooking oil prices have increased by 67 per cent; palm oil by 61 per cent; Moong Dal by 44 per cent, Urad Dal by 54 per cent; Tur Dal by 49 per cent and so on. Sir, I request the hon. Government of India to step in. Anyway, the States are strapped and are under a lot of financial pressures. The GST money is not coming on time. So, our social sector programmes are affected. So, how does the poor live in this country?

Even under the Consolidated Fund of India, all the cess is collected, be it road, be it agriculture, be it on all the petrol-related issues, but we do not even know where this cess goes. It goes to a Centralised fund but it is not necessarily spent only on these issues.

So, I would like to bring this to the notice of the Central Government and request it to please bring the prices down and help the State Governments because the people are just recovering from the pandemic. There is a problem with the economy and the people are struggling to make both ends meet. So, we all need to collectively put our minds, discuss this and resolve this, and reduce the cess on all these items.