

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding price hike in respect of petroleum products, essential medicines and raw materials.

**SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN (KASARAGOD):** Sir, on Monday, the prices of both petrol and diesel were hiked by 40 paise per litre, taking the total increase in rates to Rs. 8.40 per litre in the last two weeks. Rates have increased across the country which vary from State to State depending upon the local tax rates. This is the twelfth time that the prices have increased since the ending of four and a half months' long hiatus in rate revision on March 22.

The petrol prices have gone up by Rs. 8.40 per litre since then. The price of 19 kg commercial LPG cylinder has been increased by Rs. 250 per cylinder, effective from Friday. As a consumer State, Kerala has been victimised the most due to increase in fuel prices. Hence, the Government should explore new options like purchasing the oil from Russia to check the galloping fuel inflation.

As a second assault on the common man, the prices of essential medicines, including painkillers, antibiotics and anti-infectives, are set to go up from April, with the Government allowing an increase of over 10 per cent for the scheduled drugs. India's Drug Pricing Authority on Friday allowed a price hike of 10.7 per cent for the scheduled drugs which are under the price control regulation. This is the highest price hike allowed. Over 800 drugs under the National List of Essential Medicines will see a price rise from April. भारतीय जनता पार्टी देश को खोखला कर रही है।

I urge upon the Government of India that it should re-look at these price hikes as the day-to-day life of the common man has become extremely miserable in India due to the price hike. Thank you very much, Sir.

**SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA):** Sir, we are also associating with this.

**माननीय सभापति:** श्री प्रदीप कुमार सिंह जी।

... (Interruptions)