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Title: Regarding rising prices of petrol and diesel.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Madam Speaker, I had given my notice for Adjournment Motion on the issue of petroleum and diesel price hike. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Ananth Kumar, this is under 'Zero Hour'.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : It is very unfortunate that this UPA Government led by the Congress is raising the prices of petrol and diesel every day. ...(*Interruptions*) Recently, the price of petrol has gone up to Rs. 75 and that of diesel has reached Rs. 52. Our hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Veerappa Moily, who hails from my State, has announced that the petrol pumps should be closed between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. ...(*Interruptions*) All the newspapers across the country and channels have reported his statement. ...(*Interruptions*) Why is the hon. Minister disturbing? ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Let him speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: What is the major reason for petroleum price hike? What is the major reason for diesel price hike? The reasons is only the mismanagement of our country's economy by Dr. Manmohan Singh and Shri P. Chidambaram. ...(*Interruptions*) It is because of their mismanagement. ...(*Interruptions*) Today, the rupee is devalued. The parity of rupee with the dollar has gone for a six. It is because of the mismanagement of the economy by the UPA Government. It is because of the mismanagement of the economy by the Congress.

We want to ask the hon. Minister of Finance why the rupee is getting devalued day by day like this. It is because of rupee's devaluation, the prices of petroleum and diesel are hiked.

We want only one thing. We want a clear assurance from the hon. Minister of Finance and the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas that there will be no curfew or no closure of the petrol pumps across the country between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. ...(*Interruptions*)

Not only that, we also demand that the petrol and diesel price hike should be rolled back. We want the roll-back of petrol and diesel prices. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: All right. Thank you so much, Shri Ananth Kumar.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I want to put forth one more submission. I have not completed.

What is the tax component? They are collecting more than Rs. 1,40,000 crore. Last year they had collected Rs. 1,40,000 crore from the taxes on petroleum products. This year, it might have gone up much further. Therefore, I urge upon the Government, through you, Madam, that the taxes have to be reduced. The Central Taxes on petroleum products and diesel products should be reduced. On LPG, it should be reduced; on Kerosene, it should be reduced. It will be having a cyclic effect.

Madam, if they raise the price of petrol, price of diesel, there will be a cascading effect on the economy. There will be further inflation, further price rise. Already, in the market, we are getting onion at Rs.80 per kilogram. What about sugar? It is sold at Rs.42/- per kilogram. Even rice is sold at Rs.40/- per kilogram. This UPA Government, this Congress Party is not for the *Aam Admi*. It is for the *Khaas Admi*. It is for the hoarders. It is for the blackmarketeers and dalals. (*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: All right, thank you so much.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Therefore, the Finance Minister and the Petroleum Minister both should assure this House that first, there will not be any curfew on petroleum products that will be imposed on the country. Second, They should assure that they will roll back the petroleum price hike immediately....(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER:

Shrimati Darshana Jardosh,

Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal,

Shri Virender Kashyap,

Shrimati Jayshreeben Patel,

Shri Hari P. Choudhary,

Prof. Ramshankar,

Shri Ramsinh Rathwa and

Shri Shivarama Gouda are allowed to associate with Shri Ananth Kumar on price rise of petrol and diesel which he raised during the 'Zero Hour' today.

श्री सानलुमा खुंगुर बैसीमुथियारी (कोकगझार): मैडम, मैंने भी नोटिस दिया है, मुझे भी बुलाइए।...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया : हां-हां, आपको भी बुलाएंगे।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Madam, it is a matter of grave concern that the prices of almost all essential commodities are rising.â€¦(Interruptions) Inflation has already crossed 10 per cent. The livelihood of the people of our country is in a very bad condition. The Government are deciding and they have deregulated the prices of petrol and diesel. Earlier, they deregulated the prices of petrol. Subsequently, they have deregulated the prices of diesel. As a result of this, the oil companies are increasing the prices of diesel and petrol every month. This time the increase in the price of petrol is almost, approximately Rs.3/- During this year, the increase in the prices of petrol and diesel has been for more than six times. He has also made a statement. He should clarify in this House that every month the price of diesel will be increased by Rs.5. He made a statement. He has also made a Statement that petrol pumps throughout the country would be closed from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): No such Statement has been made....(Interruptions) No such curfew is imposed. It is only an increase in the price....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, this House is demanding that there should be restructuring in the tax, duties and cess. Whenever there is an increase in the price of petrol and diesel, there is an increase in the tax collection, realization of taxes. Whenever there is an increase in the price of petrol and diesel, it has its cascading effect. When the country is facing inflation, when the prices of almost all the essential commodities are rising beyond the capacity of the people of our country, by increasing the prices of diesel and petrol, this Government has increased the burden on the common people of our country. Without restructuring the tax, if the Government has reduced the tax and duties by 10 per cent on diesel and petrol, they need not increase the price of petrol, diesel and LPG. The price of LPG has been increased by Rs.50/- That means, this Government is reducing the subsidy putting burden on the common people....(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We, therefore, demand that the increase in the prices of petrol and diesel should be rolled back forthwith. The Minister of Petroleum should make a Statement immediately to clarify in regard to what he has stated that every month there would be an increase in the price of petroleum by Rs. 5 ...(*Interruptions*) The increase in the prices of petroleum, diesel and LPG should be rolled back forthwith. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER:

Shri M.B. Rajesh,

Shri P. Karunakaran,

Sk. Saidual Haque,

Shri Shivkumar Udasi and

Shri Shailendra Kumar are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(*Interruptions*)

श्री दारा सिंह चौहान (घोसी): अध्यक्ष महोदया, यह महत्वपूर्ण मामला है। हम सबको बोलने का समय दें।...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया : अभी जिन्होंने नोटिस दिया है, उन्हें बोलने का समय दे रहे हैं।

वेँ।(व्यवधान)

श्री प्रभुनाथ सिंह (महाराजगंज): महोदया, हमें भी इस पर बोलने का समय दें।...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया : प्रभुनाथ जी, आप इस विषय से अपने को संबद्ध कर लीजिए।

श्री प्रभुनाथ सिंह : महोदया, हमें बोलने आता है। इसलिए हम स्वयं बोल रहे हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदया : बोलिए।

श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव : महोदया, हमें भी बोलना है।

अध्यक्ष महोदया : प्रभुनाथ सिंह जी के बाद आपको बोलने का समय देंगे।

श्री प्रभुनाथ सिंह : मुलायम सिंह जी, हम आप की ही बात बोल रहे हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदया : आपको उनकी बात नहीं बोलनी है। जिस विषय पर आपका नोटिस है, उस विषय पर आपको बोलना है।

श्री प्रभुनाथ सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदया, हम ने नोटिस दिया है कि जो बार-बार डीजल और पेट्रोल के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं, इससे जनता पर अनावश्यक बोझ बार-बार लादा जा रहा है। जो आवश्यक वस्तु हैं, उन पर इस से असर पड़ता है। खासकर, डीजल के दाम बढ़ाने से किसानों पर इसका ज्यादा बोझ बढ़ रहा है क्योंकि जो सूखा इलाका है, वहां लोग डीजल से ही खेती का काम कर रहे हैं। यह आए दिन की बात हो चुकी है। हम समझते हैं कि डीजल और पेट्रोल का दाम बढ़ाने के बाद राज्यों में जो टैक्स लगते हैं, जैसे सेल्स टैक्स, वैट इत्यादि जितने भी टैक्स हैं, उससे इस पर भार बढ़ जाता है और इससे खासकर किसान वर्ग त्राहिमाम कर रहा है।

हम सरकार से कहेंगे कि इस पर जो टैक्स लेते हैं, उस टैक्स में कटौती करें और जो पेट्रोलियम पदार्थ हैं, उनके दाम घटाएं। अगर ये टैक्स में कटौती नहीं कर सकते हैं तो ये किसानों को जो डीजल देते हैं, उसमें सब्सिडी देने की व्यवस्था करें ताकि किसानों को यह मिले और किसान इस पर उचित खर्च कर के, अपनी पैदावार कर के इस देश का भार उठा सकें। डीजल का दाम जिस तरह से बढ़ रहा है, उससे इसका अंतिम मूल्य भी तय नहीं किया गया है कि कितना तक बढ़ेगा। जब मन करता है, तब यह बढ़ता जाता है।

अध्यक्ष महोदया, हम सरकार से विनम्रता पूर्वक आग्रह करते हैं। हमें लगता है कि सारा सदन इस पर सहमत है कि जिस ढंग से डीजल और पेट्रोल के दाम बढ़ाने की बात चल रही है, उस पर नियंत्रण किया जाए और इसके मूल्य को नहीं बढ़ाया जाए।

