

>

Title : Rise in prices of essential commodities.

SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN (COMBATORE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on a very important subject. The *aam aadmi* for whom this Government claims to have commitment is now suffering a lot because of rise in prices of essential commodities. Although inflation is reported to have become negative, the *aam aadmi* has to pay more for his vegetables by 10 per cent. Due to the hike in prices of petrol and diesel, the prices of essential commodities have risen steeply. All essential commodities are being sold at very high prices. In a situation when there is less rain and also a danger of drought, the hike in prices of petrol and diesel has affected the interests of the farmers gravely.

Now, because of the rise in prices of essential commodities, there is speculative online business and forward trading and hoarding by big traders. The refusal of the UPA Government to undo retrograde changes in the Essential Commodities Act made by the NDA Government is facilitating hoarding and black-marketeering.

Sir, therefore, I would like to request the Central Government that the provisions for supply of the Essential Commodities at subsidized rates through PDS to all the poor people through the universal Public Distribution System may be reintroduced all over the country. Necessary action must be taken by the Government in this regard.