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Title: Need to take steps to control the consumption of petroleum products and its serious impact on the environment in the country.

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVANNAMALAI): Despite taking efforts to discourage the over utilization of petrol, a spurt in the increase of manufacturing more number of vehicles and increased demand for fuel is being witnessed. In spite of the hue and cry about the environmental pollution, the ozone layer is getting affected causing global warming and eco disaster. Whenever oil prices go up, the Government allows the increase in petrol price as the Government coffers get more money due to the surcharge and sales tax. Hence, there is an urgent need to take effective steps to conserve oil and overcome the ill effects of overall price rise situation arising out of heavy import of oil. At a time when the Union Government is impressing upon the need to have a uniform Value Added Tax and Sales Tax all over the country, there is a need to bring oil prices at par in every state. We must take into consideration the spiraling up of prices especially of essential commodities due to oil price rise which is also paced up by the increase in the number of vehicles on the roads which puts pressure on road maintenance and heavy traffic congestion. Its socio economic impact must also be taken note of.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to see that the odd number and even number vehicles are plied on the road on alternative days throughout the country. This can bring down heavy demand of oil and can help save environment and our economy. I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister and all his Ministries to take up this mission seriously.