

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding hike in prices of Petroleum Products.

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM):** Sir, thank you for thanking us.

Under Rule 377, I point out to the astronomical ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kindly go by your text.

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY:** Sir, one or two lines may be here or there.

**माननीय सभापति :** आप अपने टैक्स्ट पर रहिए।

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY:** Sir, you look at Rule 377 in the book. I am going by the book.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** No.

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY:** Please allow me. This is a very important matter. Petrol and diesel rates in the country have sharply increased after the latest round of fuel price hike by oil marketing companies (OMCS). Experts have said that the continuous increase in fuel prices will have widespread impact on citizens and the overall economy. The petrol and diesel prices across the country continued their northward march and its retail rates to unprecedented levels while burning bigger holes in the consumers' pockets. The common people are cutting on their other expenses to manage their spending on fuel prices. Every citizen of the country is in anguish and deep distress regarding the spiralling fuel and gas prices. India is witnessing systematic erosion of jobs, wages and household income. The middle class and those at the margins of our society are struggling. These challenges have been compounded by runaway inflation and an unprecedented rise in prices of almost all household items and essential commodities. I urge upon the Government to intervene in the matter and take immediate steps to check the steep hike in the prices of petroleum products daily.