

11.01 hrs.

**Title:** Regarding revision in the prices of domestic LPG.

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK):** As hon. Members are aware, the Finance Minister had, in his Budget speech on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2002, announced in this august House reduction in the retail prices of diesel by around 50 paise per litre and of petrol by around Re. 1 per litre. Increases in the retail price of domestic LPG by about Rs. 40 per cylinder and of kerosene oil under public distribution system by about Rs. 1.50 per litre were also announced. These changes in prices were given effect to by the oil companies with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2002.

After the revision in the consumer prices that I have just now mentioned, hon. Prime Minister received representations from various sections of society including political parties and consumer groups. They had requested the Government for reducing the burden on consumers due to the recent increase in price of domestic LPG. The Government, after considering all aspects of the matter, have now decided to reduce the retail selling price of domestic LPG by about Rs. 20 per cylinder. ...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM):** Sir, all political parties are requesting for roll back....*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAM NAIK:** This would benefit over 6.3 crore urban and rural households using LPG for cooking. The reduction in the price will come into force from the midnight of 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> March, 2002.

I may mention here that the oil prices over the last few weeks have been showing an upward trend. The price of Brent crude oil, which was around \$20 per barrel in the last week of February 2002, is presently over \$23 per barrel. The prices of petroleum products in the international market have also moved upwards over past three weeks. In spite of the increase in the oil prices in the international market, the Government have, with a view to reduce the burden on consumers using LPG for cooking, decided to reduce the prices that I have just now announced. The subsidy burden due to this price reduction would increase by around Rs. 700 crore during the year 2002-2003.

**SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :** Regarding the price of LPG and Kerosene, we want a roll back....*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Shri Yerrannaidu, the Statement has been made by the hon. Minister.

**SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :** I am not seeking any clarification on the statement. My submission is on behalf of my Telugu Desam Party. Please allow me two minutes. I want to make a submission....*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** I am not allowing anybody to seek clarification. In our House, no clarification is permitted after a Statement is made. You are not to seek any clarification without my permission. The Minister has got my permission and he has made the statement....*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I have called Shri Bansal to speak.

**SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA):** Why there is a reduction of Rs.20 only? Why not the entire amount increased be withdrawn? We want a response from the hon. Minister.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Shri Acharia, do you want him to withdraw even this Rs.20 reduction? ...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :** Let him withdraw the entire amount of Rs.40/-

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** He is not prepared to do it. Shri Bansal to speak now. ...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :** In respect of LPG and Kerosene, *status quo* should be maintained.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Shri Yerrannaidu, when the General Budget comes up for discussion, you can speak on this. On Tuesday, we have slated the General Budget for discussion....*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** This is a Statement made by the Minister. I am not allowing you to seek any clarification. He is not expected to give any clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR):** He is an important ally of the NDA. They have kept this Government in power. What are the views of the allies? We want to know about that....*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Shri Yerrannaidu, there is no such rule to permit you now. You know about it. You are a senior Member.

**SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :** I am making a submission. I am not seeking any clarification....*(Interruptions)*

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN):** Sir, there is no precedent like this. When the Statement is made, it is made. We are going to discuss the General Budget. If somebody has to say anything, he can say that at that time....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaidu, if you make any submission, he will have to react or make a statement.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Anyhow, the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas has made a statement just now. I am not seeking any clarification. The important point is that LPG and Kerosene are the poor man's commodities. Already, the Petroleum Minister has written letters to all the Chief Ministers in the country asking them to implement the *Deepam Pathakam* in their States. That is why, we never asked them to decrease the diesel and petroleum prices. We never asked them to increase the prices of LPG and Kerosene. After taking into consideration the demand of all the political parties, NGOs and the public, anyhow, they have reduced Rs.20/- We are demanding the Government, through you, Sir, that *status quo* should be maintained, particularly in respect of LPG and Kerosene. That is our request....(Interruptions)

â€¦(व्यवधान)

डॉ. सुशील कुमार इन्दौरा (सिरसा) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि केरोसीन ऑयल और एल.पी.जी. पर जो दाम बढ़ाए गए हैं उन्हें पूरा का पूरा वापस लिया जाए।â€¦(व्यवधान)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This should be reviewed. *Status quo* must be maintained. The Minister should respond to this. ...(Interruptions)

This is the demand of the entire House. ...(Interruptions)

श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव (झंझारपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह कहने की अनुमति चाहता हूँ कि नायडू जी ने जो प्रस्ताव रखा है उसमें केरोसीन ऑयल को भी जोड़ दिया जाए। इस देश में बिजली की समस्या है और मिट्टी के तेल से गरीब लोग जलावन का काम करते हैं। यह देश के 40 प्रतिशत लोगों से जुड़ा हुआ मामला है।â€¦(व्यवधान)

कुंवर अखिलेश सिंह (महाराजगंज, उ.प्र.) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस देश की आधी आबादी को आज भी बिजली की सुविधा प्राप्त नहीं है और वह अपना काम मिट्टी के तेल से ही चलाती है।â€¦(व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Yadav, please resume your seat.

Mr. Minister, when you read out the statement, you read it as Rs.20 per cylinder. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: I have modified it, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Minister has amended it and the amended version is there....(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): But it is Rs.15 in the statement. He must correct it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is amended now and he would correct it. (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Nothing is circulated. The copies were prepared but while coming to the House, the Minister became more liberal and instead of Rs.15, he has made it as Rs.20, as a concession. So, what he said was final. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO): What a prudent generosity he has made? You should have withdrawn it entirely and completely. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Minister has added Rs.5 more. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: While reading the statement also, I have read it as Rs.20. I have amended it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The copy of the statement before me only says Rs.15 per cylinder. I heard the Minister reading Rs.20 and that is why I wanted clarification.

SHRI RAM NAIK: What you heard is right, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, let us go to the next item. Shri Acharia, let us not waste the time of the House. It is settled now. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What about withdrawal of the entire amount of Rs.40? Sir, Rs. 40, which has been enhanced, should be reduced and *status quo* should be maintained, as suggested by an ally of the NDA. The Minister should respond to that...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let us end this up now.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT. 519/2002)