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Title: Regarding steep hike in prices of non-subsidized LPG and relentless increase in prices of petrol and diesel in spite of fall in prices of Crude oil in the international market.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Sir, on price rise, Venugopal ji will speak and I am going to speak on drought. So, first he will take up the issue of price rise because it is concerned to all the Members and also to the general public. So, he will raise it.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are not raising it.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE : No; he will raise it.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): I would only request the hon. Leader of the Opposition that it is not a short duration discussion. It is only raising of the important issues. Therefore, it should be limited to that.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE : He has also given a separate notice; I have also given a separate notice. Therefore, his notice should be taken.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You speak; I will call him also.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE : Yes. Then it is all right. Thank you very much.

महोदय, केन्द्र सरकार ने अब तक की सबसे बड़ी बढ़ोतरी करते हुए बिना सब्सिडी वाले एल.पी.जी. गैस सिलेन्डर के दाम बढ़ा दिये हैं। अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में कच्चे तेल की कीमतें लगातार गिरने के बावजूद पेट्रोल और डीजल के दामों में बार-बार बढ़ोतरी के कारण जनता न सिर्फ परेशान है, बल्कि बहुत उत्तेजित है और लोग सरकार से जवाब चाहते हैं।

महोदय, मैं आपके सामने वन्द ऑफ़े रस्वूंगा, क्योंकि जब से मोदी जी की गवर्नमेंट आयी है।... (व्यवधान)

SHRI R.K. SINGH (ARRAH): Sir, I have a point of order.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No; in the 'Zero Hour' there is no point of order.

...(Interruptions)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kharge ji, address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

**श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे :** खुद मोदी साहब बोलते हैं मेरी गवर्नमेंट तो आप क्यों परेशान हैं।... (व्यवधान) वे मेरी गवर्नमेंट, मेरी गवर्नमेंट, मेरी गवर्नमेंट बोलते हैं। कभी उनके मुँह से बीजेपी गवर्नमेंट नहीं निकला है।... (व्यवधान) यह मोदी जी की गवर्नमेंट है।... (व्यवधान) मैं आपकी अनुमति से बोल रहा हूँ।... (व्यवधान) मोदी जी की गवर्नमेंट आने के बाद आम जनता महँगाई की मार से परेशान है। खासकर लास्ट ईयर पल्सेज के बारे में सबको मातूम है कि पल्सेज बहुत महँगे हुए थे तो इसीलिए इम्पोर्ट करने का आपने ऐलान किया, लेकिन अब पल्सेज के दाम इतने गिर गये हैं कि उसको एम.एस.पी. से खरीदें तो भी आज किसान को उसकी कीमत नहीं मिल रही है। उसको एक बोनास के रूप आपको कुछ न कुछ देना पड़ेगा। वह बात और है। 01 मार्च 2017 की रात को 11 बजे एक बार फिर देश के लोगों पर सरकार ने एक बहुत बड़ा बोझ डाला। बिना सब्सिडी वाले एल.पी.जी. गैस सिलेन्डर के दाम में कम से कम 86 रुपये की बढ़ोतरी की। वर्ष 2016 में नॉन सब्सिडाइज एल.पी.जी. सिलेन्डर का रेट 466 रुपये था और इसको 6 बार बढ़ाया गया। आज इसका रेट 737 रुपये है यानी लगभग दो साल में 271 रुपये की केवल गैस सिलेन्डर में बढ़ोतरी कर दी गयी है। यह लगभग 58 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा है। यह दर्शाता है कि गरीबों के बारे में जो बार-बार आप कहते हैं कि हमारे आने के बाद हमने लोगों को बहुत सुविधा दी है और उनकी कठिनाइयों को कम कर दिया है, लेकिन अगर आप इन ऑफ़े रस्वूंगा तो इनसे यह मातूम होता है कि आपने कितना परसेन्टेज दाम बढ़ाया है।

दूसरी चीज, अभी हाल ही में, जनवरी में पेट्रोल के दाम आपने 42 पैसे बढ़ाये हैं, डीजल के दाम में एक रुपये तीन पैसे की बढ़ोतरी की है। इसी ढंग से जब इंटरनेशनल मार्केट में अगर कूड ऑयल का प्राइस कम है तो नेचुरली पेट्रोल और डीजल के दाम भी कम होने चाहिये।

मैं उदाहरण के तौर पर आपके सामने यह रखना चाहता हूँ। वर्ष 2012 में यह 122 डॉलर प्रति बैरल था। उस वक्त नॉन-सब्सिडाइज्ड एल.पी.जी. की रेट 345 रुपए थी और पेट्रोल प्रति लीटर 58 रुपए था और डीजल 37 रुपए था। वर्ष 2016 में कूड ऑयल 33 डॉलर प्रति बैरल था। जब यह 122 था तो उस वक्त एल.पी.जी. सिलेन्डर 345 रुपए में थी। आज 33 डॉलर है तो सिलेन्डर 513 रुपए है, पेट्रोल 56 रुपए प्रति लीटर है और डीजल 46 रुपए प्रति लीटर है। इंटरनेशनल मार्केट में इतने कम दाम में मिलने के बावजूद भी अगर सरकार एल.पी.जी. के दाम में इतनी बढ़ोतरी करती है, पेट्रोल के दाम में बढ़ोतरी करती है, डीजल के दाम में बढ़ोतरी करती है तो आप देखिए कि यह गवर्नमेंट गरीबों के ऊपर कितना बोझ डाल रही है। मुझे मातूम नहीं हो रहा कि इसके बावजूद भी वे हमेशा कहते हैं कि हम जनता के साथ हैं, सबके साथ हैं। आप किनके साथ हैं?... (व्यवधान)

**श्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत (जोधपुर) :** यह तो कल पता चल जाएगा।... (व्यवधान)

**श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे :** पता तो चल जाएगा, पर यह जो बढ़ोतरी हुई है, क्या यह\* है? डीजल, कूड ऑयल के प्राइसेस इंटरनेशनल मार्केट में कम हुए हैं, क्या यह ...\* है? Sir, this is very important.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to make only a point in 'Zero Hour'. Debate is not going on.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE : That is why, I request you the Government should reply this. Where has this money gone? In spite of so much difference of prices, they got a lot of money.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will ask him to reply.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE : Therefore, I want they should withdraw these prices and they should bring back and they should give the benefit of difference of prices what it was in 2012 and what is it in 2016. The difference should be wiped out.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:

Shri Mullappally Ramachandran,

Dr. A. Sampath,

Shri Sankar Prasad Datta,

Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Mallikarjun Kharge.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Thank you very much Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir.

My 'Zero Hour' submission is with regard to the escalating prices of the LPG gas. Sir, I fully endorse the views which have been expressed by the Leader of the Congress Party hon. Kharge Ji regarding the price rise in respect of LPG, diesel, petrol and almost all the petroleum products.

Sir, you may kindly see at the time of deregulation of the petroleum products when the liberalization process took place in the country and when the administered price mechanism has been taken away in respect of the petroleum products, the assurance given by the then Government and all these Governments was that whenever the international price of the crude oil increases, definitely, the prices of petrol, diesel and gas will also increase. Whenever the international price of crude oil decreases, definitely, the prices of petrol, diesel and LPG will also decrease. So, that benefit will be passed on to the common poor people of this country. But unfortunately, the crude oil price, per barrel was 150 dollars at that time. When you compare the prices of the petroleum products especially petrol and diesel at that time and now, it is below 50 US dollars and you see it is going in the reverse direction. LPG is a non-subsidized cooking gas. Who is using this non-subsidized cooking gas? It is being used by the middle class people of this country or the salaried class of this country. It is adversely affecting the common people, the middle class people and on 1<sup>st</sup> February, Rs. 62 has been increased and subsequently Rs. 86 has been increased per cylinder of LPG. Within two years, Rs. 271 per cylinder increase means it has never been heard of. So, my submission is we want a specific answer from the Government. I demand the withdrawal of the LPG price rise. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Advocate Joice George is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Mallikarjun Kharge.

You can also associate with this matter.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Sir, in the previous Session, our hon. Prime Minister had made a tall claim that around one crore people have given up their subsidy given by the Government. That is what the Prime Minister had told this House. What happened to them? They are severely cheated by this Government. This increase in the price of non-subsidised LPG will affect them. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, I will tell this House. It must be noted that within six months the Government has increased the price of non-subsidised LPG by Rs. 245. Last time they got an increase of Rs.85.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is all right. Now, Mr. Minister.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You go on repeating the same point.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not repeat what you have already said.

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Sir, it is not a debate.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : Sir, there is a hike of Rs.2 in the subsidized LPG also for every month. This steepest increase is coming when the oil prices internationally are coming down. What is the justification? ...(*Interruptions*) What is this?â€¦! (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:

Shri D.K. Suresh and

Dr. Mamta Sanghamita are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri K.C. Venugopal.

श्री अनन्तकुमार: उपाध्यक्ष महोदय जी,...(व्यवधान) श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे साहब ने इस सदन में एल.पी.जी. के दाम बढ़ाने के विषय के बारे में मुझा उठाया है। ..(व्यवधान) मैं आपके माध्यम से उनको इतना ही कहना चाहूँगा कि वह एक अनुभवी सदस्य होने के बावजूद सदन में बोले तो वे तथ्यों को रखें। ..(व्यवधान)

Let him only keep the facts before the House. He should not mislead the House. Sir, there are 19.17 crore LPG connections in the country. On behalf of our Government, the Government of India, Narendra Modi's Government, I want to thank and congratulate all those 1.1 crore people.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : They were cheated by yourself.

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Out of these connections, 1.1 crore people have voluntarily said, we do not want this subsidy; we can afford this LPG. They have given up voluntarily. 'Give it up' is a voluntary one. There was no force on them....(*Interruptions*)

Secondly, I also want to tell our hon. Members that more than 19 crore people who are from the poorer sections, from the villages, who are down-trodden people, are enjoying and they are being given the full amount of subsidy. There is no cut in that subsidy. The subsidy amount is Rs.13,127 crore. The Government of India is giving Rs.270 subsidy per cylinder and the gas company is giving Rs.32 from that. We are supplying 116 crore subsidized LPG cylinders every year.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : The entire salaried people are affected by this.

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Regarding the small hike of Rs.86 for this....(*Interruptions*) I am giving my answer.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete.

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: I am responding to you. I want to bring to the knowledge of our friends that the international price of LPG was 471 US dollars per metric tonne. This price of 471 US dollars per metric tonne in the last one month has risen to 564 US dollars. There has been an increase of nearly 90 dollars. ....(*Interruptions*) To offset that increase, there has been a marginal increase.

Now, our Kharge Saheb is telling here that there has been continuous increase in the price of LPG cylinders. But he has happily forgotten that in 2010, Dr. Manmohan Singh Government was there. Under him, there was an EGoM. In that EGoM, it was decided that every month Rs.2 per cylinder should be increased. That is still in vogue. Therefore, if at all that continuous increasing of the LPG cylinder price by two rupees was started by somebody, the entire credit should go to Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and Dr. Manmohan Singh. They had started it and they have sweetly and happily forgotten it. He is misleading the House. ....(*Interruptions*)

Lastly, under the leadership of our Prime Minister, Narendra Bhai Modi, we have started Ujjawala Yojana under which the Government is giving free LPG connections to the down-trodden people. ....(*Interruptions*) s

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE : Sir, I have a strong objection.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him speak.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: For 2016-17, our target was of giving 1.5 crore such connections, but I want to compliment the hon. Minister of Petroleum, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, and his Ministry for having given in last one year two crore connections to the down trodden people. ....(*Interruptions*)

## **12.36 hours**

*(At this stage, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Prof. Saugata Roy,  
Shri P. Karunakaran and some other  
hon. Members left the House.)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shrimati Pratima Mondal.

....(*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram.