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Title: Need to fix the price of petrol by the Union Government and reduce its excise duty.

SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL): Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

Petrol and diesel are major commodities in the Indian economy and the prices of petroleum products have a cascading effect on all other commodities. The uncertain periodically fixed price leads to increase in freight charges, and the prices of essential commodities also go up periodically, affecting the ordinary people. The bi-monthly determination of fuel price based on the Rupee-US Dollar exchange rate is not the right policy.

When the price of crude oil is low in the international market, the Central Government imposes additional excise duty so as to not reduce the sale price of petrol. For example, the Central Government, in different instalments, since 2014 has increased the excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs. 11.77 and Rs. 13.57 respectively and not allowed the benefit of dip in crude prices to pass on to the customers.

In this connection, our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* has been urging the Central Government continuously to withdraw the periodical hike in petrol and diesel prices under the wrong policy.

Therefore, I once again urge upon the Central Government to reduce the excise duty fixed by it and revert back to the system where the right is given by the Central Government to the oil marketing companies for fixing prices of petrol and allied products.

Thank you.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : श्रीमती वी. सत्यबामा को श्री पी.आर.सुन्दरम द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।

Shri Harinarayan Rajbhar – not present.