

Sixteenth Loksabha

an>

Title: Issue regarding subsidy and increasing price of LPG in the country.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam Speaker, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to raise this issue of LPG subsidy. It is a serious issue affecting the common people of India.

Yesterday the Government of India has announced that the prices of domestic LPG cylinders will be increased by Rs. 4/-. The decision implies that the Government proposes to eliminate subsidy on LPG cylinders from March onwards. Who are the persons who would be affected by this decision of the Government? It will affect only the common people of this country, especially the women folk in our country. Since, June fuel retailers have started raising the price of cylinders by Rs. 4/- every month. Till that time the retailers had been raising the price by Rs. 2/- every month. In the month of May the Ministry ordered the retailers to double the quantum of monthly increase to Rs. 4/- to start the process of elimination of subsidy on LPG. The scenario is that the prices of crude oil in the international market have come down drastically. So, what justification the does the Government have to take such a decision? This decision is actually against the interest of the common people and the Government should withdraw this decision immediately.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Mullappally Ramachandran,

Shrimati Supriya Sule,

Shri M.B. Rajesh and

Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri K.C. Venugopal.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): Madam Speaker, the prices of subsidized cooking gas cylinder will be increased by Rs. 4/- every month and all subsidies will be eliminated by March, 2018. Since May 2017 oil companies have raised the gas rates twice, the highest being Rs. 32/- per cylinder and this is the highest in the last six years. Already the impact of GST has caused such a hike. It has to be noted that there are 18.11 crores people who are consuming subsidized LPG, out of which 2.5 crores are poor women who are given free gas connection under the *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana*. This initiative of the Government was appreciated by all. But what will be the fate of these women who were given free gas connection? Gradually the abolition of subsidy on LPG will tremendously affect and cause difficulty to the common people of the country. We protest this decision of the Government which is anti-people and therefore should be immediately withdrawn. This is the appeal we are making before the House.

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR): Madam Speaker, this is a very cruel decision of the Government to increase the price of LPG gas cylinders by Rs. 4/- every month. In this way the price of a cylinder will cost Rs. 600/-. How can a poor family afford this? This decision should be withdrawn. You may compel the Government to withdraw this decision.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri P. K. Biju,

Shri Jose K Mani and

Dr. A. Sampath are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati P. K. Shreemathi Teacher.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Madam Speaker, the point that I would like to highlight is that the order directing the oil companies to increase the price was given on 30th March 2017. After that Rs. 32/- has been increased for the LPG gas. My point is that the Government is lacking transparency in the matter. Why has the Government come to the public domain that a subsidy that has been enjoyed by the people during the last so many decades have been taken away by the Government but not been brought to the public domain? That is the main point to be considered. Also, I

would like to say that now a LPG cylinder had cost Rs. 477 in June 2016. This Government is imposing burden upon the people withdrawing the entire subsidy without informing the people of this country.

I urge upon the Government to withdraw the order with immediate effect. This is my submission.
(Interruptions)

माननीय अध्यक्ष :

श्री मोहम्मद फैज़ल और

श्री विजय कुमार हाँसदाक को श्री एन.के.प्रेमचन्द्रन द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।

...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : मैंने कई लोगों को बोलने का समय दे दिया है।

श्री मोहनभाई कल्याणजीभाई कुंदरिया जी।

...(व्यवधान)

श्री मोहनभाई कल्याणजीभाई कुंदरिया : महोदया, मैं आपका ध्यान सौराष्ट्र क्षेत्र के राजकोट-सोमनाथ फोर लेन राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ।...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : नहीं-नहीं, ऐसा नहीं होता है। I will not compel them to respond.

...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : आप बैठिए। श्री मोहनभाई कल्याणजीभाई कुंदरिया जी, आप बोलिए।

...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : आप लोग हल्ला मत कीजिए।

...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : नहीं, ऐसा नहीं होता है।

...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : मैंने पर्याप्त रूप से सबको मौका दिया है। मुद्दा उठाने के बाद हल्ला नहीं होना चाहिए।

...(व्यवधान)

HON. SPEAKER: I am sorry. This is not the way.

...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : कुंदरिया जी, एक मिनट रूकिये। आप सभी लोग समझिए। पहले आप अपनी सीट पर जाइए। आप बात समझिए। यह जीरो ऑवर है। मैंने जीरो ऑवर में आपकी तकलीफ समझकर करीब-करीब कोशिश की कि आप सभी लोग बोल सकें। In 'Zero Hour', I cannot compel the Minister to respond. ऐसा नहीं होता है।

...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : यह ठीक नहीं है। आपका व्यवहार ठीक नहीं है।

कुंदरिया जी, आप बोलिए।

...(व्यवधान)