

RE. RISE IN THE PRICES OF PETROL AND DIESEL

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up reply, to the discussion on the price rise, by the Minister.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा) : सर, लोक सभा में सरकार अल्पमत में आ गई है....(व्यवधान)....सरकार के पास बहुमत नहीं है(व्यवधान)....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will take it up later. We will take up the reply to Short Duration Discussion on price rise. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, we want an answer regarding the rise in prices of petrol and diesel. Is he going to answer on that? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Maitreyan, we will take it up later; I think, there is some agreement. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, the concern of price rise was discussed in the House, and on that day, the Finance Minister, while intervening and responding on this subject....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is over.

DR. V. MAITREYAN; Sir, I am not a party to the agreement. *(Interruptions)* I want an answer. I would like to know whether the Minister is going to reply regarding the spiraling price hike. Also, is he going to reply regarding the general price rise? Or, what is he going to reply? Because, whatever he wants to say is already replied in the Budget! What new thing is he going to say today? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Maitreyan, please listen. This House has had a Short Duration Discussion on price rise. After that, it was decided that the hon. Minister for Food and Agriculture would reply the next day. Now, he would be replying and you should cooperate.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: The Minister of Finance while intervening in the discussion said that he could not make certain remarks since he had to place the Budget. But, the day he placed the Budget, he increased the prices of diesel and petrol.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have an ample opportunity to discuss that during the Budget discussion.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Then, Sir, the Prime Minister sitting in Saudi Arabia has said that there is no question of a roll-back. When the Parliament is in Session....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ahluwalia, you have an ample opportunity to speak when we take up discussion on the Budget.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: When the people are agitated and on the streets, the Parliament is in turmoil. Bypassing the Parliament....

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): He is the democratic head of the Government and how can he say that there can be no roll-back? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You see, every Member and the Government have their own responsibilities. *(Interruptions)* When we discuss the Budget, you can raise these things. Who is preventing you from raising it? You can raise it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, can the Finance Minister come and reply? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक (उत्तर प्रदेश) : यह अलोकतांत्रिक काम है, जन-विरोधी काम है। इन्होंने डीज़ल के दाम बढ़ाकर ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I appeal to the Members that because an important subject has been discussed in the House, price rise has been debated, let the Minister reply to the debate. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: The Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Minister is here. Is he going to reply on the issue of petrol and diesel price hike? ...*(Interruptions)*.. That is the point. Sir, while he is responding, can you call the Finance Minister? ...*(Interruptions)*.. The Finance Minister should come. *(Interruptions)*

श्री विक्रम वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : सर, जवाब कृषि मंत्री से कराया जा रहा है और महंगाई के लिए डीज़ल और पेट्रोल का दाम बढ़ाया जा रहा है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... एक-दूसरे पर responsibility थोपी जा रही है।

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Let the Finance Minister come. ..*(Interruptions)*.. Let the Prime Minister come and reply to his allies in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*..

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : महोदय ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You speak one by one. *(Interruptions)* How can I listen?

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, we are willing to hear the reply of Shri Sharad Pawar. *(Interruptions)*.. Will he respond to the hike in the prices of diesel and petrol during his reply? ..*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is not replying on the Budget. ..*(Interruptions)*.. He is not replying on the Budget. *(Interruptions)* Let us finish the Short Notice Question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: You fix up another date for that. *(Interruptions)*

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Let the Finance Minister come here and say that there will be no rollback. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. N.K. Singh, your Short Notice Question is listed but the Members are not allowing you to raise this question. *(Interruptions)*.. I will call you, but the Members are not allowing to raise this question.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Members of Parliament have demanded discussion on the price hike. *(Interruptions)*.. We want discussion on that. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, I am on another point. Since the price rise which the Government itself has admitted in its report and the hike in petrol and diesel prices has a cascading effect on food items, ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can seek clarification. *(Interruptions)* I cannot allow it. *(Interruptions)* The Agriculture Minister will not be able to reply on the Budget Proposals.

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया : सर, क्या शरद पवार जी पेट्रोल और डीजल प्राइस पर रोल बैक करेंगे? ...*(व्यवधान)*... सर, महंगाई पर चर्चा हुई, महंगाई बढ़ाने का प्रस्ताव आया और उस प्रस्ताव को वापस लेने की हम मांग कर रहे हैं। क्या शरद पवार जी उस मांग को स्वीकार करते हुए डीजल और पेट्रोल प्राइस पर ... वे हाथ हिलाकर नहीं का इशारा कर रहे हैं ! ...*(व्यवधान)*... वे क्या इशारा कर रहे हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति : उनको पहले सुनिए तो सही। ..*(व्यवधान)*.. Let us listen to him. *(Interruptions)*

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया : गवर्नमेंट क्या कर रही है? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री विक्रम वर्मा : इस सेशन का उपयोग क्या है, ज़रा यह बताइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*..

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, it will have a cascading effect on food prices. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: When we take up the Budget you can raise the point whether it has cascading effect or not. *(Interruptions)* When the Budget is discussed the Members have ample opportunities to raise their points. Not even a single item has been taken up and discussed in the House. Show me the precedent. Never in history such a thing has happened. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I am raising another point. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक : ऐसा अलोकतांत्रिक, जन-विरोधी बजट कभी नहीं आया। ऐसा अजनतांत्रिक बजट आज तक नहीं आया। हो सकता है कि हम लोगों ने पहली बार बजट का बहिष्कार किया हो। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति : मैं आपकी बात का जवाब नहीं दे सकता, Budget is budget.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक : ऐसा जन-विरोधी बजट कभी नहीं आया। हिंदुस्तान की गरीब जनता की कमर तोड़ दी गई और ऊपर से तेल के दाम बढ़ा दिए गए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, the Prime Minister is saying that there will not be any rollback. *(Interruptions)*... He said it in a foreign land when the Parliament Session is in progress. *(Interruptions)* Does it constitute the breach of privilege of the House?

MR, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is only after the presentation of the Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, we are discussing rolling back of fuel price hike.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are discussing.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: So, how can the Prime Minister say there will not be any roll back of fuel price hike when the Parliament is in session? *(Interruptions)*

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक : सर, गरीब जनता को संरक्षण दीजिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Let him come and say, 'there will be no roll back on the fuel price hike.' *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can raise that point also in the discussion. We will examine your point also. When you are not debating, then, what can I do? *(Interruptions)* I can't understand why you are preventing a discussion on the price rise. *(Interruptions)*

DR. V. MAITREYAN: No, no, Sir, I want an answer to the question that I raised.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have discussed price rise thoroughly and it was announced on that day that price rise will be taken up on Monday. Monday was a holiday. Tuesday was also a holiday. Now, we have listed it. Why are you preventing the Minister? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Why can't the Minister answer... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, it has nothing to do with price rise. *(Interruptions)* He will not be able to answer on the hike in petrol prices. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Sharad Pawarji will not be able to answer that.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): If you permit me to speak, Sir, there is one suggestion. Nobody is against the discussion. We want to have a reply. We are ready to...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL (Gujarat): You cannot dictate.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Nobody is dictating. ... *(Interruptions)*

श्री उपसभापति : वेंकैया जी, आप मुझसे बात कीजिए। ..*(व्यवधान)*.. You address me. Please Mr. Rashtrapal, please help me to conduct the House.

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : राष्ट्रपाल जी, आप अपने क्षेत्र में जाइए। वहां आपको जनता बताएगी।..*(व्यवधान)*.. Sir, my point is, you have raised a very relevant point. When the Budget is presented the entire Opposition got agitated and made an unprecedented walk out. Why are you saying, 'why are you not ready to hear the reply?' Yes, we are ready to hear the reply but, what is there to hear? The simple question is, the Leader of the House who happens to be the Prime Minister has chosen a foreign land to make a categorical statement and saying, 'no roll back'. Then, what is there to discuss?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Where is that foreign land?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: This is what everybody is asking. *(Interruptions)* Yes, he said it in a foreign country. He said it in Saudi Arabia. So, we are agitated... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Venkaiah Naidu, you raise all those issues while debating on the Budget. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, nobody is opposed to listening to his reply. We are ready to listen to his reply. He is the Minister of the Government. He represents the Government. Let him speak on the issue of petrol, diesel price hike.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, there are precedents. Other Ministers have never replied whether...

SHRI D. RAJA: Outside the Parliament everybody makes a statement on roll back. Now, inside the Parliament let him say, 'no roll back.'

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Chair cannot direct that you reply.

SHRI D. RAJA: As Members we are asking.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): The entire issue is connected to the debate which was going on in the House. The whole day we debated price rise and the failure of the Government to contain prices. That debate was adjourned for the Minister's reply today. We would like to hear the Minister today. But, in between came the Union Budget. In the Union Budget, there has been protests in Parliament, outside Parliament on fuel hike. Now, certainly we expected the Government to make a statement with regard to the demand of the opposition and some of its own allies on rolling back the fuel price hike. Now, when the Parliament is in Session and that demand is also linked to what we were discussing in the House, instead of answering in the House, you choose, if not exactly a foreign land, mid air, to reject the demand of the whole country. Now, certainly the Prime Minister should have been more serious about it. Let him come to the House and let him give us the reasons why he is refusing the demand for the. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That can be raised only when there is a discussion on the debate. *(Interruptions)*

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. *(Interruptions)*. I again appeal to the hon. Members, allow the hon. Minister to reply to the debate and then, later on you can raise these issues. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: by calling Yechuryji, and he allowed me. Further to that point, Sir, the Prime Minister, through his statement, has created a lot of confusion.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can raise all that during the debate whether the Prime Minister is right or wrong. *(Interruptions)* There is no notice before the House. *(Interruptions)* There are rules and procedures. Let us follow the rules and procedures. *(Interruptions)* Where is it that the Prime Minister has broken....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, you please answer my question. Does it constitute a breach of privilege? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How can I straightway answer your question, without a notice, whether it is a breach of privilege? *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: The Prime Minister has said that there would be 0.04 per cent impact on the Wholesale Price Index. This is adding salt to the wounds. And, it is contradicting the hon. Minister's own agenda that says that the fuel price hike has a cascading impact. So, what the Prime Minister is saying, what the Agriculture

*Not recorded.

Minister is saying, what the other Government people are saying, they are all contradicting each other. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You start a debate and raise it before the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, our question is....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What you are objecting about the levy and the rise in the prices of petroleum products, you raise it during the....*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, let me finish my point. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This has nothing to do with the price rise. ...*(Interruptions)*... What can I do?*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, let me finish my point. *(Interruptions)* Sir, can I finish my point? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Under the rules there is no breach. *(Interruptions)* There is a provision. You can discuss it and raise those issues. Rules are there. *(Interruptions)* There is a rule. When a particular subject is already listed, and is going to be taken up, it cannot be....*(Interruptions)* Rules are there in this regard. *(Interruptions)* You question it during the debate. *(Interruptions)* You question it during the debate. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: The Leader of the House is not here. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: During the Budget, when he comes....*(Interruptions)* Please, I appeal....*(Interruptions)* People are watching us. *(Interruptions)* People are watching to hear the reply of the Agriculture Minister on price rise. *(Interruptions)* No; no. *(Interruptions)* Do you want reply or not? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Let the Prime Minister come or the Finance Minister come and, then,.... *(Interruptions)* When he will be there at 2 o'clock, we will take it up. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is for the Government to answer. I cannot.....*(Interruptions)* You lay the reply. *(Interruptions)* Now, I will call the Short Notice Discussion. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: No; no, Sir. *(Interruptions)* No, Sir. *(Interruptions)*

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Let the Prime Minister come and say that there will be no roll back.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are repeating the same thing. *(Interruptions)* This is a short notice question. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, nothing has been done since morning. We wanted to do this. You can slate this Short Notice Discussion on some other day. There is no problem. *(Interruptions)* You can slate it on some other day. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I agree. *(Interruptions)* I can call you. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, you are not listening to the bigger problem. *(Interruptions)* You are going to the smaller problem. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am listening to you. *(Interruptions)* But, I am taking up the agenda. *(Interruptions)* What can I do? *(Interruptions)* Neither you allow me to take up this question, nor the hon. Minister's reply. *(Interruptions)* What is that I can do? *..(Interruptions)..* It is a simple thing. *..(Interruptions)..*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, the point is that Prime Minister is the Leader of the House. *..(Interruptions)..*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. I cannot say that. It is for the Government to *..(Interruptions)..*

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: He was aware that the reply has not come. *..(Interruptions)..*

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

MAOIST RAID AT EFR CAMP AT SILADA

SNQ. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether armed Maoists raided the Eastern Frontier Rifles (EFR) camp at Silda near Midnapore town, Kolkata on 15th February, 2010 and killed a large number jawans;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and whether the intelligence failure led to the attack on the police camp;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government has conducted any preliminary probe into the attack by Maoists on police camp; and

(d) if so, the further drastic steps Union Government proposes to take in consultation with State Governments to wipe out Naxalites in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) : In West Bengal, armed cadres of CPI (Maoist) attacked the Eastern Frontier Rifles (EFR) camp at Silda under PS Binpur in district West Midnapore on February 15, 2010 at 1645 hrs. 24 EFR personnel and one civilian were killed while four EFR personnel and one civilian were injured in the incident, Prima facie, it appears that the security arrangements at the camp were inadequate.

The State Government has appointed a committee headed by the Home Secretary, West Bengal, to probe various aspects concerning the incident.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.