

Demand for non-levy of taxes on petrol, diesel and LPG

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the hike in fuels and gas prices poses a great threat to the poor and middle class people of this country and to the economy. In Chennai, petrol sold at Rs.86.15 in January, 2021, is sold today at Rs.89.13 per litre. There is a hike of Rs.2.62 per litre. Similar price hike is there in other cities in our country. However, the petrol price in Sri Lanka and in Pakistan is INR 60 and INR 51 respectively. There is rise in diesel prices from Rs.79.21 to Rs.82.04 per litre and the difference is Rs.2.83 per litre. In Sri Lanka and Pakistan, the diesel price is INR 51.90 and INR 52 respectively. The LPG costs Rs.25 more now. In Chennai, the price of LPG is Rs.735. In 2018, when the crude oil was \$ 68 per barrel, the petrol prices were fixed at Rs.72.82 average in India. In January, 2021, a barrel cost \$ 49, the petrol price was at Rs.83 and now, in February, the crude oil price is at \$ 54.41 per barrel, the petrol price is sold at Rs.86. Thus, oil companies fix the prices as per their whims and fancies. Today prices have also shot up because of higher taxes levied by the Government without caring about the cascading effect on goods and services leading to great inflation. In view of pandemic, I request the Government to levy zero taxes on fuel, LPG and save the citizens.

(MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Normalcy in domestic air traffic

†*91. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any estimate about getting the domestic air traffic back to normal i.e. at pre COVID-19 stage; and

(b) whether Government would consider extending the period of floor and ceiling prices of air tickets in order to facilitate passengers to purchase tickets and get refunds till the situation gets back to normal, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.