

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

श्री उपसभापति : माननीय श्री जॉन ब्रिट्टास।

Rise in prices of essential medicines and medical devices

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, I stand here with mixed feelings. I am happy that we have three hon. Members celebrating their birthdays today and also, today is Odisha Day.

Sir, I am sad because the life of the common man is becoming tough and much more difficult. Today is April 1st and people are already reeling under price rise. Every day, petroleum prices are going up, but today onwards, another unfortunate thing is going to happen. The wholesale prices of more than 800 drug items, which are essential for our survival, are being increased by 11 per cent.

Sir, this is unprecedented. There has been no such steep increase in the past. When the whole country is passing through a health emergency, this should have been avoided by any sensitive Government. But there is gross insensitivity that is being shown to the people. The health budget of the people has already gone haywire. The prices of almost all essential drugs, which are meant to combat fever, infections, heart diseases, anemia, etc., even Paracetamol, have increased.

Sir, I was sick for the past one week. Even you asked me where I was and you missed my voice. I was very happy yesterday when you said that you were missing my voice. It was because I was sick. Because I had the CGHS facility, I could avail medicines, but think about the vast majority of our population who do not have any social security or health insurance. What will be their plight?

Sir, let us look back at history. The increase last year was hardly 0.53 per cent and in 2020, it was 1.88 per cent. Even if you take the total of the previous years, there has been no such steep hike in the price of essential drugs.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi would like to associate. Please, conclude.

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, I deplore the actions of the Government and I would urge upon the Government to withdraw this steep hike.

श्री उपसभापति : अब प्रियंका चतुर्वेदी जी।

श्रीमती प्रियंका चतुर्वेदी (महाराष्ट्र) : सर, पेट्रोल महँगा, डीज़ल महँगा, खाना बनाना महँगा, खाना खाना महँगा, अब दवाई भी हुई महँगी, महँगाई के दर्द की दवाई भी अब है जरूरी।

Sir, the cost of living is getting higher every single day. Medicines are an essential part of the right to health that is a part of our Fundamental Rights. It is in violation of the principles of our Fundamental Rights. I would request and urge through you that this insensitive Government, which has been increasing prices every single day, should, at least, consider exempting these common drugs, which are useful for every single individual in this country, and give them some relief. "

श्री राजमणि पटेल (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को माननीय सदस्या द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA (Tripura): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MS. DOLA SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI BIKASH RANJAN BHATTACHARYYA (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. SANTANU SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI MAUSAM NOOR (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

Need to grant minority status to Hindus in Meghalaya

SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI (West Bengal): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to speak. I would like to draw the kind attention of this august House to the fact that the Centre has told the Supreme Court that States can consider granting Hindus the minority status, if the community is not in a majority within their jurisdiction. If the Hindus are in minority in a particular State, they should be able to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice, in keeping with the rights guaranteed to the minorities by the Constitution. I humbly urge the august House to draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble Home Minister to urgently direct the Meghalaya Government to grant minority status to Hindus via notification, as per Articles 29 and 30 of the Constitution of India.

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

DR. SONAL MANSINGH (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

MS. DOLA SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

DR. SANTANU SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member.