

**Murli Deora favours air lines,
ignores LPG & diesel consumers - Ram Naik**

Mumbai, Tuesday : "After the crude oil prices have come down further during the last 15 days in the international market Petroleum Minister Shri Murli Deora has further reduced Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) by Rs. 4.38 per litre to help the rich. However, he has rubbed salt on the wounds of 'Aam Aadmi' by not reducing the LPG cooking gas prices by Rs. 50 /- per cylinder and diesel by Rs.3/- per litre," stated Shri Ram Naik, former Petroleum Minister in a press statement issued today in Mumbai.

Elaborating further Shri Ram Naik said, "The crude oil prices in the international market had reached the peak in June 2008 at \$ 147 per barrel. As a result the Congress Government increased prices of petrol by Rs. 5/- , diesel by Rs. 3/- per litre and LPG cooking gas by Rs. 50/- per cylinder. When the prices came down to \$ 50 per barrel in the international market in the first week of December the Government reduced the prices of petrol by Rs. 5/- per litre, diesel by Rs. 2/- per litre and ATF Rs. 38.10 per litre. The crude oil prices have now further come down \$ 41 per barrel (72 %). However, the prices of diesel and LPG cooking gas have not been reduced. Compared to ATF price of Rs. 73.67/- per litre in August 2008, the reduced price on 16th December is Rs. 33.72, a major reduction of Rs. 39.95 per litre. The 'Aam Aadmi' is anguished as the rich is getting cheaper fuel and the prices of LPG cooking gas and diesel are not being reduced. Moreover, petrol used by scooter, motor bikes and cars is sold at Rs. 50.07 per litre against ATF rate of Rs. 33.72, making ATF cheaper than petrol by Rs. 16.35. This contradiction reflects insensitiveness of the government."

"Keeping in mind the reduced international prices of the crude oil the government must reduce the LPG price by Rs. 50/- per cylinder and diesel by Rs. 3/- per litre or face the strong agitation," warned Shri Naik at the end.

(Office Secretary)