

**For Favour of Publicity**

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**ATF still cheaper than petrol,  
'Aam Adami' still suffers since LPG prices  
not reduced : Ram Naik**

**Mumbai, Saturday :** " In spite of the demand for reduction of prices of petrol, diesel and LPG cooking gas because of the fall of crude oil prices in the international market from \$147 to \$50 per barrel, the government has only withdrawn the price increase on petrol. While the price of diesel was increased by Rs. 3 per litre and has been reduced to Rs. 2 per litre, the LPG cylinder price has not been reduced. The 'Aam Adami' who was expecting complete roll-back is disappointed," commented Shri Ram Naik, former Petroleum Minister in a statement issued today in Mumbai.

"The Congress government had increased the prices of petrol by Rs. 5, diesel by Rs. 3 per litre and LPG by Rs. 50 per cylinder in June 2008. As the prices were fallen down, Petroleum Minister Shri Murli Deora had announced in the Parliament on 23rd October, 2008 that the petroleum prices would be reduced in a week. However, he reduced the Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices 3 times in month of November, making ATF cheaper than the petrol. As the government was criticized for favouring the rich, he has now withdrawn fully the price hike of petrol, but he has refused to roll-back price of diesel fully. He has also not touched the LPG prices," said Shri Ram Naik.

"In view of the diesel price increase, the goods and passenger traffic have already become costly. As a result the vicious circle of price increase has been accelerated. The 'Aam Adami' continues to suffer. Unless the diesel prices are rolled back by Rs. 3 per litre and LPG by Rs. 50 per cylinder the common man will not get genuine relief. ATF is now being sold at Rs. 40.69 per litre against petrol at Rs. 50.07 per litre, petrol is still costlier than ATF. The reduction in prices is superficial. The Petroleum Minister must roll-back the prices if he is really concerned about the common man", demanded Shri Ram Naik at the end.

**(Office Secretary)**