

**Prime Minister should intervene to end anarchy in Petroleum Sector**

**Mumbai, Friday :** “Prime Minister should intervene to end anarchy in petroleum sector by reducing diesel prices and bringing an end to the strikes of the transporters as well as public sector oil officers”, stated Shri Ram Naik, former Petroleum Minister in a statement released to the press today. The threat of Essential Commodities Act (ESMA) is hardly a solution for the problem, said Shri Naik.

"It would have been equitable to reduce prices of diesel and LPG cooking gas after substantial reduction of crude oil prices in the international market. The demand of the transporters to reduce the rates of diesel needs to be supported. The government has left no alternative but to go on strike for them. The common man is also now receiving the heat of the strike as the prices of vegetables and other essential commodities have sky-rocketed. As the Petroleum Minister Shri Murli Deora has shown insensitivity the situation demands immediate intervention by the Prime Minister”, added Shri Naik.

"The strike by the petroleum officers has further deteriorated the situation and the transport system has practically collapsed. The common man may lose his patience. The threat of the ESMA by Shri Deora would further complicate the situation. If the Petroleum Minister would have shown even one per cent of the concern exhibited by him in promptly reducing the prices of the Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) , the situation would not have become so complex. If no solution is found for the anarchy in the Petroleum Sector the situation may go out of control. Hence Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh must intervene”, demanded Shri Naik.

"If the prices of the diesel and LPG cooking gas are not brought down and if the strikes of the transporters and oil companies' officers are not withdrawn the sufferings of the common man would continue”, stated Shri Ram Naik at the end.

**(Office Secretary)**