

BJP demands re-introduction of Consumer Price Index

Mumbai, Friday: "Government must re-introduce Consumer Price Index (CPI) to give clear picture of ever-rising prices and inflation." demanded Shri Ram Naik, former Petroleum Minister and Shri Prakash Javdekar, M.P. & National Spokesman of BJP. They submitted a memorandum on Thursday to Prime Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh and discussed the details with Shri Prithviraj Chavan, Minister of State in P.M.O.

UPA Government have discontinued the practice of publishing the CPI and have started the practice of announcing inflation index based on wholesale prices. However, a common-man is unable to get real picture of the economy in this situation. It is beyond his imagination to know why prices of essential commodities are sky-rocketted when inflation index has gone down to (-) 1.21. A rosy picture of economic state of affairs is painted with jugglery of numbers. Shri Naik and Shri Javdekar urged the Prime Minister to reintroduce the practice of publishing the CPI based on retail prices to have transparent economy.

Shri Naik and Shri Javdekar presented the Prime Minister a comparative price chart of essential commodities showing exorbitant rise in prices of wheat(144%), rice(150%), tur daal(233%), moog daal(183%), masoor daal(255%), jaggery(171%), potato(150%), onions(167%), tomato(122%) etc. The chart clearly shows that prices of not even a single essential commodity have come down in the last five years. Shri Naik and Shri Javdekar appealed 'economist' Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to review the situation as 'Prime Minister' and take an appropriate decision to reintroduce CPI taking into consideration the change of consumption pattern during the last two decades.

Shri Naik and Shri Javdekar also stressed the need to hold price line . They drew the attention of the Prime Minister to the fact that many parts of the country fear low rainfall which will adversely affect agriculture production and start vicious cycle of artificial scarcity. Shri Naik and Shri Javdekar urged the Prime Minister to improve public distribution system on war-footing for better distribution of essential commodities to the common-man.

(Office Secretary)

Encl : (1)

Ever increasing Prices of Essential Commodities
(The prices are of Mumbai. Compiled by Shri Ram Naik, former Petroleum Minister)

Items	Prices during BJP regime (Rs.per kg) May 2004	Prices during UPA regime (Rs.per kg) as on 19 July 2009	Price rise (Percentage)
Wheat	9	22	144%
Rice	10	25	150%
Sugar	14	26	86%
Tea Powder	80	190	138%
Edible Oil	40 (per litre)	88 (per litre)	120%
Dalda	40	60	50%
Toor Dal	30	100	233%
Moong Dal (Green beans)	24	68	183%
Masoor Dal (Red lentil)	22	78	255%
Gram (Chana Dal)	25	44	76%
Jaggery	14	38	171%
Gram flour	20	50	150%
Potato	8	20	150%
Onion	6	16	167%
Tomato	9	20	122%
Milk	14 (per litre)	25 (per litre)	79%
Kerosene	18 (per litre)	35 (per litre)	94%
Cooking Gas (LPG)	244 (per cylinder)	314 (per cylinder)	29%
Piped Natural Gas (PNG)	11.53(Per SCM)	13.60(Per SCM)	18%
Petrol	33.15 (per litre)	48.78 (per litre)	47%
Diesel	22.50 (per litre)	36.74 (per litre)	63%
CNG	19.71(per kg)	24.65(per kg)	25%

(Office Secretary)