

**A statement released by Shri Ram Naik, BJP Leader & former
Petroleum Minister in a press conference held in Mumbai
on 5th October, 2009**

Increasing prices will bring down the Congress Government - Ram Naik

Mumbai, Monday: "Maharashtra voters have realized that it is necessary to bring BJP - Shivsena Government in the State to force the Central Government to take decisions in favour of the people in the State", said Shri Ram Naik, BJP leader and former Petroleum Minister. He was addressing media persons in Mumbai on behalf of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Mumbai Unit.

Increasing Prices

"The most important issue during the election campaign is increasing prices. Diwali festival is fast approaching but the common-man does not dare to go for festive shopping. The BJP-Shivsena Government will certainly keep a check on increasing prices and ensure that prices of five items viz. wheat, rice, edible oil, sugar and toor daal would remain unchanged for the next five years", stated Shri Naik. He also released a comparative chart of major consumer items, comparing prices in May 2004 during the Vajpayee Government with the present prices. The statement reveals that the prices of wheat in May 2004 per kg. increased from Rs.9 to Rs.18 (100%), rice from Rs.10 to Rs.24 (140%), sugar from Rs.14 to Rs.34 (142%), jaggery from Rs.14 to Rs.42 (200%), toor daal from Rs.30 to Rs.90 (200%), edible oil from Rs.40 to Rs.88 (120%), potato from Rs.8 to Rs.20 (150%) and onion from Rs.6 to Rs.20 (233%). "The irritated people will certainly teach a lesson to the Congress by bringing down their government", added Shri Naik.

Suburban Railway

The State Government also failed in their duty to provide hassle-free suburban rail travel to 65 lakh Mumbai commuters. Adding that BJP-Shivsena Government will also come to rescue of the commuters, Shri Naik said, "Suburban railway is the life-line of Mumbai! The Vajpayee Government had established the Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation (MRVC) and initiated projects worth Rs.4,500 crore under MUTP-I to improve the quality of service. The State government has 50% share in MRVC. However, they did little to expedite their execution. BJP-Shivsena Government will pay special attention to complete these projects and would also give priority to complete MUTP-II projects of Rs. 5,300 crore."

Metro Rail

"The Congress Government is responsible for creating chaos in the execution of the Metro Rail projects. Three years have passed but the government has failed to finalize the rehabilitation and resettlement policy. While giving priority to finalize the policy, BJP-Shivsena Government will expedite and streamline the Versova - Ghatkopar phase. Though the President Smt. Pratibha Patil had laid the foundation stone of Charkop - Bandra - Mankhurd phase, the work is yet to start. The BJP-Shivsena Government will reassess the project and would start the work only after relocating the proposed Charkop Car-shed"; asserted Shri Naik.

Forest Land

"Literally lakhs of citizens are living at the outskirts of Sanjay Gandhi National Park on lands alleged as forest lands. The chaotic handling of the Private Forest Land Act by the Congress Government has resulted into keeping a hanging sword on the houses of lakhs of citizens. They have invested their life-time savings and purchased flats in the buildings approved by the State Government and Mumbai Municipal Corporation. The slum-dwellers are also protected under the Slum Improvement Policy. The BJP-Shivsena alliance assures that their government will plead strongly to support the people's case in the Supreme Court and will also amend the Act if necessary", assured Shri Naik.

Mahanagar Gas

When Shri Naik was the Petroleum Minister in the Vajpayee Government, he finalized the project and started supplying piped gas which is cheaper and safer through Mahanagar Gas Ltd.; in which the State Government has equity share. The momentum of covering Greater Mumbai has been slowed down though the Petroleum Minister Shri Murli Deora is from Mumbai. Thousands of consumers have paid deposit but have not been provided gas connections. "We shall remove the backlog in six months", promised Shri Naik at the end.

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Encl : Price Hike Pamphlet

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) 1st October 2009	Price rise (Percentage)
Wheat	9	18	100%
Rice	10	24	140%
Sugar	14	34	142%
Tea Powder	80	200	150%
Edible Oil	40 (per litre)	88 (per litre)	120%
Dalda	40	60	50%
Toor Dal	30	90	200%
Moong Dal (Green beans)	24	68	183%
Masoor Dal (Red lentil)	22	68	209%
Gram (Chana Dal)	25	45	80%
Jaggery	14	42	200%
Gram flour	20	45	125%
Potato	8	20	150%
Onion	6	20	233%
Tomato	9	12	33%
Milk	14 (per litre)	25 (per litre)	78%
Kerosene	18 (per litre)	35 (per litre)	94%
Cooking Gas (LPG)	244 (per cylinder)	314.00(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%

The Government's official rate of inflation is fast decreasing in spite of ever-increasing prices. Currently rate of inflation is merely (-) 0.83. It is decreasing because the Congress Government scrapped earlier method of calculating rate of inflation and now it is based on wholesale prices. However, rising prices speak for themselves. That's the reason why the Government increased dearness allowance of their employees. The country is also facing recession. As if these problems were not enough, we may have to face draught too. Yet the Government is not bothered. Now enough is enough. Let us teach a lesson to the Congress-NCP Government. Let us change the Government.