

মমতা ব্যানার্জী
মমতা বৈনর্জী
ممتا بنرجی

Mamata Banerjee



মুখ্যমন্ত্রী, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ
मुख्यमंत्री, पश्चिम बंगाल
وزیر اعلیٰ مغربی بنگال

CHIEF MINISTER, WEST BENGAL

No.21 - CM / 2021

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Respected Prime Minister,

I would like to draw your kind attention to a Government of India policy which has brought great distress among the common people of the country. Shockingly, the retail price of petrol in many States across the country has crossed an unprecedented Rs.100 per litre.

I have come to learn that petrol and diesel prices were hiked by your Government 8 times since the 4th of May, 2021 and out of these, prices were hiked 6 times in the month of June, 2021 only and shockingly, 4 times in one week. This rather cruel hikes in petrol and diesel prices have affected the common people most adversely and has directly impacted the dangerously rising inflation in the country.

You are aware that Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in the country rose by 12.94% in May, 2021, compared to May, 2020. Similarly, Consumer Price Index rose by 6.30% where the prices of edible oils used by common people every day, rose by 30.8%, eggs by 15.2%, fruits by 12% and health related items, in the middle of the pandemic, by as much as 8.44%.

Much of this inflation was triggered by the petrol and diesel price hikes. I may add here, that such major inflation in prices reduces the real income of the common people, as well.

I express my deep concern and anguish to you for pursuing policies which have resulted in this significant hardship for the common people of the nation.

In the midst of this COVID pandemic, the Government of India has collected revenue of staggering Rs. 3.71 lakh crore (Rs.3,71,725 crore) from oil and petroleum products in the financial year 2020-21.

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In fact, over the last six years of your Government, Government of India's tax collection from oil and petroleum products has jumped by a staggering 370% since 2014-15, due to constant hikes in Central Excise Duty on oil and petroleum products including cesses and surcharges, at the cost of the common people.

Here I may mention that Government of West Bengal has voluntarily given a rebate to both petrol and diesel as a token of our empathy for the common people.

I am also alarmed by the fact that the Government of India is constantly increasing the Cess component of Central tax revenues which results in denying the States its legitimate share of 42% of tax collected by Government of India, since Cess accrues wholly with the Government of India, without sharing with the States. I sincerely urge you to desist from the anti-federalist trend developed in the last few years.

It is my earnest request that the taxes charged by the Central Government on petrol and diesel be substantially reduced to give much-needed relief to the common people and also to check the overall inflationary trend in the country today.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Mamata Banerjee)

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