

Press Release

Chandigarh, January 14, 2018

Senior Congress leader and Communications In-Charge of the Indian National Congress, Mr Randeep Singh Surjewala today asked the BJP Governments of Centre and the Haryana to lower down the tax burden for Petrol / Diesel and bring it under the purview of GST.

Blaming the Central Government and state BJP Governments for the sky rocketing prices of Petrol and Diesel, in a statement issued here today, Mr. Surjewala said that despite the international prices of crude oil being half compared to the tenure of the UPA government, the people of the country and the region are being forced to pay much higher prices of Petrol and Diesel. During the last 3.5 years, BJP has increased the central excise duty 11 times by 133.47 percent on Petrol and 400.86 percent on Diesel, he added.

Mr Surjewala said that the BJP government of Haryana increased the VAT burden by more than five times in the VAT, increasing the 21 percent VAT in Petrol to 26.25 percent and almost doubling the VAT on Diesel [from 9.24](#) percent to 17.22 Percent. In the year 2013-14, the Haryana Government had received Rs 4,591 crore as VAT on Diesel & Petrol, while the present BJP government has burdened the people of the state and taxed Rs 7000 crore in the year 2016-17 for the same, he further added.

Comparing the Petrol and Diesel rates of India to the neighbouring countries, Mr Surjewala said that the Petrol and Diesel in India is far more expensive than all our neighbouring countries. While quoting the official data of India's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, Mr Surjewala said that the Petrol and Diesel in India are available in the range of Rs 71 Rs 80 from and Rs 61.50 to Rs 65.53 respectively; while on January 1, 2018, the prices of Petrol and Diesel were Rs 45.68 and Rs. 51.97 respectively in Pakistan; Rs 48.73 and Rs 39.57 in Sri Lanka; Rs 63.58 and Rs 49.10 in Nepal; Rs 66.29 and Rs 50.11 per litre in Bangladesh respectively.

Referring to the official figures, Mr Surjewala said that when the Narendra Modi government assumed charge on May 26, 2014, the international price of crude oil was 108 US Dollar per barrel, which has almost halved in the average international crude prices of the current year. The prices of Petrol and Diesel are skyrocketing and that reduction in international rates has not been passed on to the consumers. Despite the average prices being halved, the Petrol and Diesel in Haryana is costing Rs 72.16 and Rs 62.74 respectively, while it was Rs 71.92 and diesel Rs 55.61 during the Congress regime. The Petrol and Diesel in Haryana was cheaper than most of the other states, but the situation has reversed during the BJP Government, he added.

Mr. Surjewala strongly advocated the immediate reduction in prices of Petrol and Diesel by reducing the heavy taxes like central excise duty, VAT and other tax. He reminded that when the GST was passed in July last year, the Congress party had demanded that petroleum products, electricity and real estate should be brought under the purview of GST. The introduction of petroleum products under the GST is much needed now to reduce the burden of double taxation and heavy fuel prices. The people badly need some relief as they are reeling under the severe inflation, he further added.