

## PRESS RELEASE

December 14, 2015

### Randeep Singh Surjewala, Incharge Communication, AICC, has issued the following statement to the press today:-

“International prices of crude oil have fallen to an unprecedented low level of \$36 per barrel which is lowest in 11 years equivalent to year 2004 crude oil prices. Regrettably, Modi government is indulging in profiteering by imposing unprecedented taxes in shape of excise and customs on crude oil.

On one hand, common man is already overburdened by unprecedented increase in prices of food products like pulses - edible oil – vegetable - flour etc.; Modi government is imposing the burden of additional taxes in shape of Service Tax (14%), Swachh Bharat Cess (0.5%) and Skilled Development Tax, thereby breaking the back of the entire populace. Instead of giving relief to people of India on account of reduction in International crude prices, BJP government earned a tax revenue of Rs.74,000 crore from petroleum products alone in the year 2014-15. In the year 2015-16, Modi government has kept a tax collection target of Rs.1,10,000 crore on sale of petroleum products. Thus, BJP government that was elected on the promise of ‘*achhe din*’ is actually taking away the lion’s share from the pocket of common man.

On 26.05.2014, when Shri Narendra Modi took over as Prime Minister of India, International price of crude oil was \$108.05 per barrel. Today, it has fallen to \$36 per barrel. Refinery price of petrol today is only Rs.23.70 per litre while petrol is sold at Rs.60.48 per litre (price in Delhi). Hence, as against the final refinery pricing of Rs.23.70 per litre of petrol, Modi government is earning a profit of Rs.36.71 for every litre of petrol. Similarly, refinery price of diesel is only Rs.24.67 per litre while the market price is Rs.46.55 per litre (price in Delhi). Hence, on a final refinery price of Rs.24.67 per litre of diesel, Modi government is making a profit of Rs.21.88 per litre. What is most startling is the fact while oil refinery earlier paid a price of Rs.6,331/- per barrel, this has come down to Rs.2,726/- today. Entire profit is being pocketed by the government instead of giving relief to the common man. This is also apparent from the following chart:-

### PETROL

	June, 2014 (Rupees per Litre)	December, 2015 (Rupees per Litre)
Retail prices for people	71.46	60.48
Profit earned by Government	14.67	36.71

(Tax+Company Margin+Dealer Commission)		
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**DIESEL**

	June, 2014	December, 2015
	(Rupees per Litre)	(Rupees per Litre)
Retail prices for people	57.28	46.55
Profit earned by Government	01.95	21.88
(Tax+Company Margin+Dealer Commission)		

On behalf of 125 crore people of India, Indian National Congress demands that Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and BJP government should pass on the benefit of unprecedented reduction in international prices of petroleum products to common man. People of India should not be burdened with taxes on petroleum products to the tune of Rs.1,10,000 crore per year. Once, prices of petroleum products are reduced, it will automatically lead to reduction in prices of food products. Rail fare, bus fare and all other transportation fares will automatically go down. Entire country would be benefited. We demand that Modi government must rise to the occasion, understand its responsibility and instead of hoodwinking the people with empty sloganeering fulfill its promise of '*achhe din*'."

**Randeep Singh Surjewala**