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3rd October, 2013

Its wrong to sell 5 kg LPG cylinder on petrol pumps: Ram Naik

Mumbai, Thursday: "Petroleum Minister Dr Moily's announcement to sell non-subsidized 5 kg LPG cylinders on Petrol pump in metropolitan cities is defeating the basic idea behind introducing these cylinders. We had introduced these cylinders during Vajpayee regime to cater to the needs of families in hilly regions as well as in lower income group of urban slums." said Shri Ram Naik, former Petroleum Minister in a press statement issued today.

Shri Naik further added, "UPA government has taken this decision for cheap publicity. Is Petroleum Minister not aware of rising terrorism and how this decision would be risky as cylinders will be available so openly? Petroleum Minister has to explain how the stock will be taken and whether the petrol pump employees are trained for the task? The 5 kg cylinders would be available without subsidy for Rs.362 in city like Mumbai. Considering the fact that subsidized 14.2 kg cylinders are available at Rs. 441/- I doubt about the success of the scheme." Shri Naik also sought clarification as to how the deposit of payable for the cost of cylinder will be adjusted.

Shri Naik however welcomed Dr Moily's decision to allow LPG consumers to shift from one agent to another. He hoped that this will reduce the consumers' exploitation and also agents will be forced to give better service.

(Office Secretary)