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**Country on the brink of financial disaster: Ram Naik**

**Mumbai, Friday:** "The country is on the brink of financial disaster due to yet another hike in petrol prices accompanied with the 12th increase in a row in a year in the rate of interest. The rate of inflation declared in the last week is too highest in the year", said Shri Ram Naik, former Petroleum Minister while criticizing yesterday's petrol hike.

"Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Planning Commission's Deputy Chairman Shri Montek Singh are 'eminent' finance experts. However, when one sees that the petrol - common man's fuel is costing Rs. 73.81 per litre and on the other ATF required for air journey of creamy layer is cheaper by Rs. 12 i.e. at Rs. 61.98 per litre, one is forced to doubt their expertise", criticized Shri Naik.

Shri Naik further said that the Congress Government have redefined poverty line and now expects a common man to feed his entire family in just Rs. 26 in rural area and in Rs. 32 in urban sector. "Besides petrol hike even interest rate has increased 12 times in a year and inflation is highest yet the Congress Government believes that the common man can survive!" said Shri Naik. He demanded immediate roll back and warned to be ready to face aggrieved people otherwise.

**(Office Secretary)**