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**Paralysed Petroleum Ministry needs New Policy;
Not new Minister - Ram Naik**

Mumbai, Monday: "Rather than good governance; Dr. Manmohan Singh is the case of no governance. The Prime Minister has changed four Ministers in the last eight years of the sensitive Petroleum Ministry. The nation would have progressed if instead of reshuffling the Ministers the petroleum policy would have been formulated", said Shri Ram Naik, former Petroleum Minister. Shri Naik was reacting to the yesterday's change in the cabinet. Shri Naik is the only Petroleum Minister who held office for the five years since formation of the separate Petroleum Ministry in 1963.

Shri Ram Naik recalled that the nation could progress well during Vajpayee regime due to its petroleum policy. He said, "We gave LPG connections to more than one crore wait-listed consumers in less than a year, where as UPA cut down supply of LPG cylinder; that too at higher prices. We explored several progressive measures viz. foreign investments, new explorations, revamping of Mumbai High, introduction of ethanol, etc. on the contrary UPA increase import of petroleum products from 70 % to 80 %. The Prime Minister should introspect for the reasons behind its failure."

"Instead of changing the Petroleum Minister the government should formulate the petroleum policy for ending anarchy in the field", added Shri Ram Naik at the end.

(Office Secretary)