

**POL products ♦ prices: SHC moved to reverse increase**

KARACHI: A constitutional petition was filed in Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday against the latest hike in price of petroleum products, seeking the reversal of increase in the prices.

The federal government on Saturday night allowed a massive increase in the prices of petroleum products, raising the price of petrol by Rs9.42 and kerosene by Rs7.46 per litre.

The petition, submitted by Molvi Iqbal Haider Advocate, pleaded the court to declare the increase in prices of all petroleum products by up to 9.42% and imposition of tax upon the said increase unjust, unfair, arbitrary and gross violation of Article 4,9, 10, 25 R/w Article 77 of the constitution.

The Federal Government through Ministries of Finance, Petroleum and others has been made respondents in the petition.

The petitioner also prayed the court to declare the increase without placing before the Parliament unjust, unfair and arbitrary and that seems to deprive the chosen representatives elected by the people of Pakistan. Thus the increase in petroleum prices has no legal sanctity and unconstitutional, it added.

The petition also requested the court to direct the respondents to submit the formula for increase in the prices before the court, as under what law and authority, the respondents increase the prices of the petroleum products and thereafter, the court may pass appropriate order.

The petition pleaded the court to restrain the respondents not to further increase the prices of petroleum products in future till decision of the petition.

The same petitioner had also submitted in the beginning of last month when the federal government had increased the prices of petroleum products. The previous petition also requested the court to declare the decision of the federal government to increase the petroleum prices unlawful. The SHC will hear the latest petition by clubbing it with the previous one.

**RECORDER REPORT**