

**Inflation to hit country if government approaches IMF for bailout package:
PPP**

While criticising the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has said that a new storm of inflation will hit the country if the government approaches International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a bailout package.

While addressing a news conference in front of the Parliament, PPP leader Syed Naveed Qamar on Wednesday said that the poor are already in miserable condition due to increase in prices of gas, petroleum products and electricity by the PTI government.

He said that a new storm of inflation will hit the country if the government approaches IMF for a bailout package. He said that the price hike is rapidly increasing in the country but the government is not taking any serious steps to control it.

He said that the PTI government has summoned the session of the National Assembly for holding a debate on the economic situation of the country but it is not serious in this regard. He said if the government wants to pull the country out of economic crisis then it should accept the proposals of opposition.

He claimed that the finance minister is not coming to the House for holding debate on economic crisis. He said that the finance minister came in the House on the protest of opposition on Tuesday last but he left the House soon after delivering his speech. He said it seems that the finance minister does not want to listen to the proposals of opposition to resolve the issues related to economic crisis.

The PPP leader said that the consultations with Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser for constituting standing committees of the Lower House of the Parliament are under way. He said that the PTI government is increasing inflation while using lame excuses regarding mistakes of the previous government.

He claimed that the economic situation of the country was the worst when the PPP came into power in 2008. He said that the PPP government had taken serious measures and given subsidy to the poor segments and introduced Benazir Income Support Programme.

He claimed that the price of crude oil at that time was \$ 148 per barrel at the international level while at present the price is much low. Naveed Qamar said that on one hand, the PTI government is saying that it would not increase burden on the poor while on the other it is increasing the prices of petroleum products, gas and electricity.

Another PPP leader Shazia Marri said that the government should take serious steps to address the economic crisis in the country. She said that the PTI government takes u-turns at every decision. She said, "We are not expecting any big decision from the PTI government."

She said that the PTI government has neither any plan nor any vision to run the country. She said that inflation would increase more if the PTI government approaches the IMF for bailout package.

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