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## "Mehangai" – The Real Picture

Is it real or just a stick to beat any government?

Opinion | by: Mahesh K Gupta | [Print](#)

The hottest issue of the present day is Mehangai. Anyone and everyone is commenting on it day in & day out. "Bharat Bandh" and morchas are being organised all over India, causing loss of thousands of crores & suffering for lacs of citizens. The present govt. is being blackmailed & vested interests are demanding their pound of flesh & fishing in troubled waters.

The writer has compiled some figures over a period of last fifty years just to see & evaluate the real picture of so called "Mehangai". The data reveals some very interesting figures.

I have classified the data in to three distinct categories, just to give an idea about (i) the increase in the rates of some common daily use items, (ii) increase in the earning power of different segments of society & appreciation in the value of assets as a feel good factor.

The comparisons have been done over a period of fifty years i.e. from 1962 to 2012. Here we go;

Item Measure	Unit of (Rs)	1962	2012	Increase no.of times
<b>(i) Increase in the rates:-</b>				
News paper	one	0.14	5.00	36
LPG gas cyl. (1965)	14.2 kg	14.00	399.00	28.5
Wheat	1 Kg	0.45	25.00	56
Ghee Desi	1 Kg	6.00	330.00	55
Petrol	1 lit.	0.90	68.00	75
Potato	1 Kg	0.25	20.00	80
Onion	1Kg	0.20	15.00	75
<b>(ii) Increase in earnings levels</b>				
Mason (Mistry)	daily	5.00	500	100
Bank clerk	P.M	200.00	25000/=	125
Grad.Engineer	P.M	250.00	30000/=	120
2nd Lt(Now Lt.)	P.M	300.00	40000/=	133
(Incl. allowances)				
<b>(iii) Increase in the value of assets</b>				
Gold	10 Gms.	110/=	32000/=	290
Silver	1Kg	190/=	62000/=	326
Land G.K.1	1 sq. Yd.	22/=	5.5 lacs	25000

Figures are here to see. The earnings and asset value have outpaced the increase in prices. Price of LPG, on which

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such a furore is being made is the least increased item.

#### Some more facts:-

a) Items like a car, scooter, telephone, TV, a/c, fridge were rare & very very expensive. Now a day's even JJ colonies have most of these items. For a tel. under OYT scheme, one had to deposit Rs. 3000/- , in 1965, which was equivalent to 200gms of gold. Now a phone is for asking.

b) I. Tax started from an annual income of Rs. 2500/=@ 12% .Highest slab was at 90%.

Now it starts at 1.90 lacs.Max rate is 30%

So where is the "Mehangai"? Everyone seems to be having a car, two-wheeler; Mobile, fridge etc. (Leave the BPL cat.)

My family shifted to G.K. 1 in 1962.Till 1982, very few cars were there. Now each household has got 2-5 cars.

Foreign travel is almost like going to a local tourist spot. There are hundreds of other examples, which talk of affluence.

So let us be realistic & appreciate the progress made by our country.

There is no doubt that had our politicians & bureaucrats been honest, our country may have been on top of the world.

Note:- The writer is a senior citizen, having no political affiliations.He is a social activist & a part time journalist.

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**Maresh K Gupta:** on Tuesday, Sep 25 at 10:18 am

Some corrections- Para 2 - Pl. read "Complied" as "Compiled" & "revels " as "reveals" Thx.

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