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Pradhan hits back at Cong, says govt using fuel money for welfare of poor

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New Delhi: Reacting to Congress's accusations over fuel price hike, Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan continued with the BJP onslaught over funds to the RGF saying on Monday that the Modi government has been consistently working for the welfare of the poor unlike Congress, which has been interested in benefiting a single family.

"Sonia Gandhi has recently given a statement in which she said that the Centre is filling the coffers. Gandhi is probably forgetting that Congress-ruled states like Rajasthan, Punjab, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and even Pudu-



Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan

cherry have also put a burden on the public by increasing Rs 5 tax (on fuel) as tax," Pradhan told a news agency.

He said when resources are needed for development, the government does so (increases tax). "The money which Centre collected through these channels is sent to state go-

vernments. PM Garib Kalyan Yojana was started. Foodgrains were given to the needy, money was sent to the bank accounts of farmers, not used to fill any coffers. Modiji's plans do not include filling coffers but distributing the money," he added.

Pradhan said that in the last three months (during the Covid-19 phase) till June 20 '22 crore people were paid Rs 65,454 crore in their bank accounts, without the involvement of any intermediaries.

"Modiji does DBT in the bank account of the poor, but you (Sonia Gandhi) sent it to your son-in-law's account, in Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. Your culture is to loot the treas-

re, Modiji's plan is to spend it on the poor, needy and middle class. We do not have to hide anything, we spent the money cautiously in the times of the Corona crisis. It is due to this that India's handling of the Corona crisis is being appreciated," Pradhan said.

"Due to pandemic, the energy industry is going through a tough time. Demand for petrol went down by 70-80 per cent in April-May months in the country which directly impacted the economy," he said. "No one can predict oil prices, but we've estimated that as prices in international markets stabilise, prices in India will also stabilise," he added.