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LIFE SAVING DRUGS: CENTRE URGED TO RETHINK CUSTOMS DUTY

New Delhi, 8 February: The CPI has flayed the Centre's decision to withdraw the exemption on custom duty on 74 drugs, including some life saving drugs imported from other countries.

Demanding immediate withdrawal of the increased tax that the government's decision will inevitably usher in, the CPI said the drugs cover treatment for cancer, chemotherapy, radio-therapy, heart disease, diabetics, Parkinson, HIV, Hepatitis B, bone diseases and infections and other serious diseases.

"This is a shameful inhuman decision, which will hit the patients from poor families," said the statement issued by the CPI.

The statement dubbed as meaningless the government's explanation that the tax increase would lead to start up programmes to make those medicines in India.

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