

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Request to include dairy farming in the approved work list of MGNREGA for security and protection of livelihood of the dairy farmers.

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): Sir, dairy farmers play an important role in our society as we cannot ensure food security of our nation without milk and milk products. The cost of production and price stagnation had made the life of dairy farmers very difficult. The cost of production always depends upon the prices of cattle feed. Very unfortunately, it is rising again and again. This is our experience for the last five years. Hence, our farmers needed aid from the Government, but our Government is not at all providing adequate support to the dairy farmers.

Of course, our cooperative sector is doing a good job. In our experience, in Kerala, Milma is doing a good job and they are very much supporting this sector, but it is not adequate. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme is not only a poverty alleviation programme, but it is also increasing the availability of quality assets in the rural areas. So, it should be extended to our dairy farming community too.

I would urge upon the Government to include dairy farmers also in the approved work list under MGNREGA for security and protection of livelihood of the dairy farmers. Thank you, Sir.