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Title: Need to redress grievances of Fair Price Shop Dealers.

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM):** The Fair Price Shop Dealers Federation announced a nation-wide agitation to redress their grievances. They demand Rs. 250 per quintal as margins for rice, wheat & sugar with a minimum guaranteed income of Rs. 30,000- per month for their livelihood.

There is a need to restore kerosene quota and appoint erstwhile kerosene dealers as LPG dealers who have since lost their business on account of some States being declared as Kerosene Free by Government of India in order to ensure their livelihood since they had so far been living solely on Kerosene retail business. Frequent increase of retail kerosene price is forcing the general public to buy the same from open market. This reduces the income of Fair Price Shop dealers. Government has to ensure sufficient supply of pulses and edible oil at Rs. 20 per kg and iodized salt at Rs. 5 per kg, less than market prices to arrest the exorbitant hike in its open market prices. Government's move to privatize PDS may cause exploitation, unemployment and further disaster to the FPS dealers including their loss of business and hunger to them and their respective families. The proposed concept of 'One Nation One Card' will create serious operational complications for many States like West Bengal, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu, which are making subsidized distribution from their State exchequer. The failure of Direct Benefit Transfer, especially in some States is also causing a lot of

problems to the smooth functioning of Public Distribution System. The Government must intervene in the matter and take corrective steps to redress the grievances of Fair Price Shop dealers.