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Title: Regarding need to increase the kerosene share and subsidy to Kerala.

SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN (THRISSUR): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am raising a very important issue concerning my State Kerala.

The Central Government has been constantly cutting down the share of kerosene to our State. Yesterday, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has issued a notification to block 85 lakh households from getting kerosene. The fishing community would be the worst affected section due to this act of negligence by the Central Government.

Now, one household will not get even 500 millilitres of kerosene a month in Kerala. The Central Government is allocating only 9,000 litres of kerosene. It was 13,000 litres earlier. So, there is a serious situation prevailing in Kerala. Why is the Centre continuing with the inimical stand towards Kerala?

Hon. Speaker, Sir, the fishing community of Kerala have already been demanding more kerosene with subsidy. There are more than 25,000 outboard engine boats, which use kerosene as fuel. Now, they are compelled to use diesel or kerosene from outside markets, and they are not able to afford it.

Finally, Sir, the poorest of the poor of the State will have to bear the burden of price rise of sea products.

Sir, I need to remind the Central Government that they just cannot judge Kerala as a wealthy State by merely seeing the number of

households with electricity and gas connections. We cannot generalise the situation in all the States. Each State has got a different situation.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to restore the kerosene share with subsidy and also increase the share of kerosene to Kerala. This demand of ours should be considered positively, and the last notification of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas be withdrawn immediately. Thank you.