

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: To provide benefits to small and marginal dairy farmers by inclusion of raw materials such as de-oiled rice bran, maize etc. for production of cattle feed.

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN (KOTTAYAM): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance in this august House. The State of Kerala ranks second in milk productivity after the State of Punjab. However, the dairy farmers are facing great difficulty due to the ever-increasing price of cattle feed. The two public sector undertakings of the State of Kerala producing cattle feed are Kerala Feeds Limited and Kerala Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Limited (MILMA). They are getting raw materials like de-oiled rice, bran, maize, jowar and wheat from various States including Punjab and Haryana. The cost of transportation and rail freight is causing a big problem to the public sector undertakings in keeping the cost of production of cattle feed at a low level.

If these raw materials are transported under the Kisan Rail Scheme, the cost of transportation will be reduced by 50 per cent which can be passed on to the poor dairy farmers. Sir, considering the fact that this Scheme will benefit more than 3.78 lakh small and marginal dairy farmers in the State of Kerala, the hon. Minister of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development of Government of Kerala, Shrimati Chinchu Rani has requested the hon. Minister of Railways through the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India to include de oiled rice bran, maize, jowar and wheat in the Kisan Rail Scheme and provide the facilities for easy transportation of these raw materials to Kerala. I have also submitted letters to the hon. Minister of Agriculture, the hon. Minister of Railways and the hon. Minister of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development in this regard. Considering the fact that the inclusion of these raw materials in the Kisan Rail

Scheme will benefit more than 3.78 lakh small and marginal dairy farmers in the State of Kerala, I request the hon. Minister of Railways to give directions to the concerned officials to include these raw materials for the production of cattle feed, that is, de oiled rice bran, maize, jawar and wheat in the Kisan Rail Scheme.