

Title: Request to clarify the government position regarding limiting the scope of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, running of the Public Distribution System is the joint responsibility of the State Governments and the Central Government. It is an important tool for eradicating the poverty and it is also a safety net for the poor people. The Kerala State has got a very good Public Distribution System. The Targeted Public Distribution System is also functioning very smoothly in the State.

According to the Press reports, the Central Government is seriously contemplating to limit the scope of Targeted Public Distribution System. If it is done, it would be a major blow to the State of Kerala's economy and the poor people of Kerala would be largely affected. One of the reasons for the human development in the State of Kerala, which is emphasised even by the developed countries, is the effective functioning of the PDS and the food security that exists in that State. The State of Kerala is a food-deficit State. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramesh Chennithala, please do not read. You are a senior Member. You can tell the facts.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, we are getting rice from Andhra Pradesh also. The Public Distribution System is being managed very effectively in the State of Kerala. In the newspapers it is reported that the Central Government is going to limit the scope of the PDS. If it is done, it would affect our State. So, I request the hon. Minister, through you, to clarify the Government's position on this issue. If it is continued, lakhs and lakhs of people would be benefited by this. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All the hon. Members from Kerala can associate with what Shri Ramesh Chennithala has said.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri A.C. Jos, Shri P.C. Thomas and Shri Kodikunnil Suresh can associate with what Shri Ramesh Chennithala has said.

... (Interruptions)