

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA): Sir, from 1964 onwards, the statutory rationing is available in the State of Kerala. Unfortunately, by the recent pronouncement of the Central Government, 75 per cent of the people of the State are now outside the purview of the Public Distribution system which is continuing in our State. The State Government has already urged upon the Central Government to withdraw this decision regarding the Public Distribution System. Kerala is one State in which you can see that the PDS is running properly. Effective Public Distribution System can be seen in our State. According to the calculation of the Central Government and the Planning Commission, only 26 per cent of the people are declared to be below the poverty line. But really the by record of the State Government 42 per cent of the people are now below the poverty line. 17 per cent of the people out of the total population of the State have been deprived of this benefit(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramesh Chennithala, you are going to discuss the Budget also. At that time, you can raise this matter.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : The State Government is subsidising this. So, I urge upon the Central Government to take this matter very seriously. The Ration Retail Holders Association had also demonstrated in Delhi and given a memorandum to the hon. Minister.

The general public also is agitated â€¦! (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan and Shri P.C. Thomas also gave notices on the same subject. Let them also associate with Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, you cannot associate with him without giving a notice. Since they have given notice I told them that they can associate with him.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I urge upon the hon. Minister, Shri Shanta Kumar to reconsider the decision and help the people of Kerala.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR): We all associate with Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. You can also associate with him.

Shri Lakshman Seth.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): This is a very serious matter. The whole of Kerala is starving.(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): I may be permitted to speak.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please take your seat. You have given a notice. I already told you that you can associate with Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

Hon. Members, you would be discussing the Budget. You can raise these issues at that time also.

Shri Lakshman Seth.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, I have allowed Lakshman Seth.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, is this the way to run the House? What is this? I cannot compel the hon. Minister to reply in the Zero Hour. Please understand.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)*

