

Title: Need to expand the network of Public Distribution System to tribal areas and other parts of the country.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (TRIPURA-WEST): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to the topsy-turvy condition of the public distribution system. With liberalisation policies, the successive Central Governments have virtually dismantled and destroyed the public distribution system throughout the country. It has hit the poor the hardest. The worst affected people are in the tribal areas where hunger and starvation deaths have become a regular feature. Hence, there must be universalisation of the public distribution system at subsidized rates so that the vast majority of the poor people can afford. I would strongly demand from the Government that all the essential commodities and adequate quantum of foodgrains should be distributed through the PDS which should be equipped with an expanded network of fair price shops in each State.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not really a matter for 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Corruption must be rooted out in the PDS system. More number of fair price shops should be opened in the tribal areas.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a matter to be raised in the 'Zero Hour'.

It is a matter for a proper discussion. This is a matter concerning the country, and the poor people. I agree, it is important, but not this time.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri, Sarbananda Sonowal.