

>

Title: Need to restore the quota of kerosene to Kerala.

SHRI P.K. BIJU: Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

I would like to raise an important issue regarding the reduction of kerosene quota towards the State of Kerala. The Central Government has decided to cut 4,404 kilolitres of kerosene from the regular quota to Kerala that was distributed through the Public Distribution System, for the months of April, May and June. The allotted quota of kerosene to Kerala State was 23,160 kilolitres but that has presently been reduced to 18,756 kilolitres. This decision is anti-people, undemocratic and unacceptable. This move is against the "Aam Aadmi" and the federal character of the Centre and the States.

Madam Speaker, the PDS in Kerala is a model scheme in our country. The Food and Civil Supplies Minister has openly admitted this in the Parliament. At the same time, the Ministry of Public Distribution and Civil Supplies tried to destabilize the Public Distribution System in Kerala. Last year, the Central Government deducted the allotted APL rice quota from 1,13,000 metric tonnes to 17,000 metric tonnes. Simultaneously, the Central Government increased the APL rice price from Rs. 8.90 to Rs.12.96 and later to Rs.15.65.

Such deduction in essential commodities disrupts the common man's living. The decision to deduct 4,404 kilolitres of kerosene from the normal quota will affect the farmers and fishermen as well as the non-electrified household people in Kerala. The houses that have not been electrified yet get only 7 litres of kerosene per card per month and this will be further reduced due to the Central Government's decision. The small and marginalized farmers will be badly affected by this decision as they use kerosene in pumps for irrigation. Fishermen use kerosene as fuel for their fishing boats. Deduction in kerosene supply will affect their fishing and alter their day to day life....(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI P.K. BIJU : I am going to conclude. This is not the first time that it has been made. The Central Government reduced all the welfare measures in respect of Kerala – even in the fund allocation under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme and also in respect of rice quota. So, I urge upon the Central Government not to burden the common man. I urge upon the Central Government to immediately withdraw this decision and reinstate the deducted kerosene quota to Kerala State....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Madam, I would like to associate myself with the statement made by Shri P.K. Biju in the House today.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please send your slip to the Table.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN (KANNUR): Madam, I would also like to associate myself with the statement made by Shri P.K. Biju today in the House.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please send your slip to the Table.