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Title : Need to increase the quota of Kerosene for fishermen in Kerala.

SHRI CHARLES DIAS (NOMINATED): There are more than 17000 outboard kerosene-operated traditional fishing crafts operating in Kerala. The requirement of Kerosene for these units is worked out to 5786 KL per month. But, the actual allocation from the Public Distribution System is only 2531 KL per month. There is a wide gap of 3255 KL of Kerosene per month against the actual requirement in traditional fisheries sector. The present allocation of Kerosene is sufficient only for around 10 days in a month. For the remaining days, the fishermen are forced to remain either idle or to buy Kerosene from open market by paying higher rates. This has resulted in a situation where there is already sharp drop in the income levels of traditional fishermen which may push them to the brink of starvation.

In view of the sad plight of the traditional fishermen, I would urge the Union Government to take immediate steps to increase the Kerosene quota for traditional fishermen in Kerala.