

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES: All the consumer items to Kerala are being brought from the neighbouring State. As a result, there is a shortage of vegetables. One kilo of potato or onion costs eleven rupees here. It takes more than one week for a lorry load to travel from Bangalore to Trivandrum. For miles and miles there are queues of lorries all along the national highway for diesel. Kerala is experiencing starvation. I learnt that there is only 10% cut of the diesel supply; but Kerala has been very seriously affected by this cut. I would request the Petroleum Ministry to go into it and see that sufficient quota of diesel is allotted to Kerala and the present crisis is avoided.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has been unsuccessful in providing security to citizens and employees in the Kashmir Valley. As a result, they had fled to Jammu and other parts of the country. In the same way, the extra departmental employees of the Post and Telegraph Department were also unable to work in the valley and so they have come to Jammu. According to the rules of the Department, the extra departmental employees neither get any allowance nor get any pay for the leave period. At present, their families are starving to death for want of ration. I request the Minister of Communications that those people, who had come to Jammu, should be given employment in the Post and Telegraph Department in Jammu, so that they can get their salary and can provide food to their families..... (Interruptions)

SHRI JANARDAN YADAV (Godda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been an accident between two passenger trains at Merwa Railway Station which comes under the North Eastern railway in Chhapra district in Bihar. Hundreds of people were injured and several were killed. No one from the Railway Ministry has yet visited the site. I would like to urge upon the hon. Railway Minister through

you that he should give a statement in this House.

12.44 hrs.

RE : SHORTAGE OF DIESEL

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is acute shortage of diesel in Uttar Pradesh. Thousands of farmers are standing in queue before the petrol pumps, but are not getting diesel. The new Government has failed in providing diesel to the farmers for irrigation purposes. It has been causing damages to the crops. The farmers of Uttar Pradesh are in great distress due to the acute shortage of diesel. I would like to submit through you that the hon. Petroleum Minister, who is sitting here, should reply as to why there is such shortage of diesel in Uttar Pradesh? I would like to inform that this shortage of diesel is only at the places where the diesel is sold on control rates. In black, the diesel is sold at Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 per litre near the petrol pumps. What is this Government doing? Why is it unable to check the black marketing of diesel on the petrol pumps? Why is it unable to supply diesel? Lakhs of farmers in Uttar Pradesh are in great distress. Necessary action should be taken in this regard..... (Interruptions)

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the lives of about three lakh tribals are in danger due to Narmada Project. The Chief Minister of the State is bent upon creating riots between the tribals and the non-tribals there. Immediate steps should be taken to avert such a fateful incident. The tribals are fighting for their land, for their rights. Everywhere the tribals are removed from the tribal areas in the name of development. The contractors and other people in collusion with the police, are committing atrocities on the tribals. The tribals are not being given recognition even in the sched-

uled areas and this is against the Constitution. When Gorkha land can be given recognition and Muslims can be provided with a particular place in Kerala; why the tribals are being denied their right to form a self-Government in the scheduled areas? Even after the forty years of independence, the Government has paid no attention towards the tribals. They are only being routed from here to there. They are loosing their employment, as they are uprooted from their lands and atrocities are being committed on their womenfolk. They are not even being treated as the second class citizens. Necessary action should be taken in this regard.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri P. C. Thomas.

(Interruptions)

12.49 hrs.

RE: IMPORT OF COCONUT OIL FROM SRI LANKA

[English]

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, the Commerce Minister is here. The import of coconut oil from Sri Lanka has had serious repercussions on coconut cultivation. Today, it has come in the Malayalam Press. Though it was assured by the Commerce Minister that the imported oil will not be used in India, it is reported in the Malayalam press that it is going to be given in place of Palm oil; it is going to be distributed in place of Palm oil. This will very seriously affect the coconut cultivators. There are millions of people and poor farmers who are dependent on the coconut cultivation in Goa, in Tamilnadu, in Kerala, in Karnataka and in many part of India. I request the Government that some very serious steps should be taken to stop the import. Unless that is done, the economy of major parts of India will be very seriously affected.

I plead that some answer should be given by the Commerce Minister who is physically present here. (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY): Sir, Hon. Member Mr. Thomas has brought this to my notice. What he has stated to me, as published in the Press, is against the assurance I have given to a delegation of MPs from Kerala. I will have the matter investigated.

If it is false, I will have the newspaper publish a correction. And if it is true, the concerned official will pay for it through disciplinary action.

12.52 hrs.

RE : SHORTAGE OF DIESEL IN THE COUNTRY — Contd.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, several Members have raised the issue of shortage of diesel in the country. First of all, I would like to inform the House that the Government has withdrawn the cut of 10 per cent of diesel with effect from the 26th of November last. This has given a little relief in the shortage. But the entire problem has not yet been solved.....(Interruptions) If any commodity is being sold in black, it means it is not in shortage. I would like to inform that I will take stern action on any such complaint; not only the businessmen, but also the officers found guilty will not be spared..... (Interruptions)

DR. VENKATESH KABDE (Nanded): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to inform the House regarding the injustice being done with the Marathwada division of