

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