

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Issue regarding the shortage of regular teachers in Lakshwadeep and absence of technical staff to solve the problems in cultivating coconut trees.

SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P. (LAKSHADWEEP): Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue pertaining to my constituency, Lakshadweep. People of Lakshadweep are facing hardship and suffocation because of unscientific and unpopular administrative reforms which affect mostly the education sector and the agriculture sector. The students are facing shortage of teachers. The classes were started after five months now.

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Have you changed the subject?

SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.: It is an important issue related to Lakshadweep.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: But you should have informed before.

SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P. : Yes, Sir. Thank you. There are a lot of issues. The main issue here is about the future of our students. The department of education has conducted the streamlining of education, and after streamlining, they have allotted 32 periods for the teachers and for the principals also. You know the principals normally do not take classes because they manage the schools. After allotting 32 periods, they identified that there is a need of a hundred regular teachers to teach the students. Now, what is the fate of the students? They do not have classes for physics, chemistry, and important subjects because they do not have teachers.

Now, when the department is putting up the file for engaging teachers on contract basis, the present administrator who is in charge is not allowing any engagement because he wanted Lakshadweep to have zero contract. When the students are going for strike, disciplinary action is being taken against them. Article 19 gives permission for them to protest.

In Lakshadweep, main agricultural practice is cultivating coconut trees. About 15 lakh coconut trees are there on the island. Considering all the aspects, the previous Government had sanctioned many technical posts in the agriculture department. This administrator is closing the agriculture department and engaging the technical staff with the other departments. I am not saying that the issue is that he is engaging the technical staff somewhere else. My point is this. Where should the farmers go when something happens to the coconut trees or when there is a problem related to pesticides or anything? The cultivation of coconut trees is the only source of income for the people there. If they are not able to approach any technical person on the island, how will the problems be solved? I want to know whether the Lakshadweep Administrator is taking any sort of advice from ICAR, CPCR or Coconut Development Board. This is a big issue because 70 per cent of the population of Lakshadweep depends on coconut cultivation.

I have given a notice of privilege also. I would like to present before you a complaint against the district collector of Lakshadweep.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: That should not be clubbed with this. Please give this complaint separately. Please, no. Hon. Speaker will take action on that.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Shri Raghu Rama Krishna Raju. Please speak.

... (*Interruptions*)