

**Seventeenth Loksabha**

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Title : Need to have a Legislative Assembly for Lakshadweep

Shri Mohammed Faizal P.P. (Lakshadweep): Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to raise a very important issue.

The issue is with regard to the need of a Legislative Assembly. It has been a long-cherished dream and desire of the people of Lakshadweep. This desire has become an inevitable part within these years. The reason behind the same is that the people of Lakshadweep and their elected representatives have no say in any of the decisions which are crucial for their existence. For instance, there are issues with regard to New Panchayat Regulation, Mass Land Acquisition, repealing of the Land Tenancy Regulation - 2019, stopping of 15 Years' Perspective Plan for the Shipping Sector, stoppage of speciality doctor services, welfare schemes for the farmers and fishermen, and employment. For the past so many months, people have been protesting on roads. Now, a continuous relay strike is going on in the capital city for just a single demand.

On the one hand, we are celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Year of our Independence, and on the other hand, the people of Lakshadweep do not have that freedom. My simple submission is that there is a need to have a legislative system where people's aspirations are discussed, and a consultative mechanism is developed so as to ensure democratic right of the people.

I would like to urge the Home Ministry that -- when we celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Year of our Independence -- let the people of Lakshadweep also enjoy the freedom of self-governance.

Thank you so much, Sir.