

Regarding repairing and development of Perumbankuth Road, the segment of old Aluva Munnar National Highway in Kerala

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to raise an important matter pertaining to my State of Kerala. Very recently, the Government of Kerala has tried to introduce a black law against the common people. The attitude of the Government of Kerala nowadays shows that they want to impose a jungle raj in the State. Due to the large-scale agitation from the opposition parties, they were forced to withdraw that controversial law. That is a bitter experience for the people of Kerala.

In this regard, we conducted a peaceful agitation in my constituency. Our demand was to reopen the Aluva-Munnar Road, which is the shortest way from Kothamangalam to Munnar. But that road has been completely blocked by the Forest Department without any serious reason. The issue is about the 11.5 kilometres distance between Pooyamkutty and Perumbankuthu. But the Forest Department did not allow any transportation on that road.

The Government is filing baseless cases against common individuals in this incident. They have filed cases against me and other representatives of the people in that area. The Bishop Emeritus, Mar George Punnakottil, an 89 year-old spiritual leader, also participated in the agitation with about 3000 other people belonging to various communities. But the Forest Department filed unnecessary and baseless cases against us. I have no problem about filing any forest or police case against me. But they have also filed cases against the spiritual leader and other common people. We cannot tolerate this kind of an attitude of the Government.

I urge upon the Government to issue necessary directions to the Government of Kerala against the jungle raj that they want to impose in Kerala. They are trying to curtail our rights.*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Hon. Members who want to associate themselves with this important matter raised by Adv. Dean Kuriakose may submit their slips at the Table.