

Need to enhance the supply of non-subsidised kerosene to Kerala through PDS.-laid

SHRI SHAFI PARAMBIL (VADAKARA): With a 590 km coastline, Kerala has about 1.95 lakh active fishermen engaged in sea fishing. It gives livelihood to around 8.04 lakh families. Currently, the fishing community in the State is undergoing a serious existential crisis as there is a considerable reduction in the supply of Kerosene. The traditional fishermen use small fishing boats, which use kerosene as fuel. There are 31,600 registered boats in the State with outboard motors using kerosene. Even though the demand for kerosene is around 51,000 kilolitres, the supply of kerosene in the State under the non-subsidised PDS quota is only 11,640 kilolitres. Since there is a wide gap between the demand and supply of kerosene through PDS, the fishermen are forced to buy kerosene at an exorbitantly high price. This has increased the operational cost of traditional fishing. They are forced to buy it from the open market at INR 105 per litre. Due to this, traditional fishing has become uneconomical, and many fishermen have stopped venturing into the sea. Hence, there is an urgent need to increase the supply of non-subsidized kerosene through PDS. Otherwise, the livelihood security of the traditional fishermen community will be seriously affected.