

Title: Need to provide subsidy to fish boat owners for purchasing diesel and kerosene.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the strike by fishermen in Kerala for the last one week. Today, they are actually picketing the fishing harbour, Cochin. The problem is the lack of diesel and kerosene supply for them. State Government is levying about Rs.6.55 per litre of diesel which is supplied to the fishermen. One fishing boat requires 1,500 litres of diesel per week, which means a fisherman requires around Rs.60,000 worth of diesel per week for his fishing boat. Hence, they are on strike for the last one week. I would request the hon. Minister to provide subsidy for the diesel used for the fishing boat.

Traditional fishermen are also using kerosene. Now, kerosene supply for the traditional fishermen is provided through the public distribution system. Actually, the number of ration cardholders is increasing day by day with the result kerosene required by the fishermen is not met through the public distribution system. I would request the hon. Minister to provide adequate quantity of kerosene exclusively for the traditional fishermen.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU (KAKINADA): Sir, I associate with the issue raised by Dr. Manoj.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. But in future, for associating with the issues raised by other hon. Members, you are required to give notice.