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Title: Need to address the problem of shortage of LPG in Kerala.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): I would like to raise a very important matter affecting every household in Kerala. Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is supplied to Kerala by the Tamil Nadu-based bullet tanker lobby. This lobby is very strong and has a membership of 4000. Because of their strike, the supply of Liquefied Petroleum Gas to Kerala has dwindled, which has caused cooking gas shortage in Kerala. The LPG supply in Kerala is in a critical position. As per rule, LPG cylinders are to be supplied to the consumers within 20-30 days. But, now-a-days, consumers have to wait for 60-70 days to get LPG supplies which creates difficulties for the consumers. The Indane consumers are the worst affected in Kerala since the consumers of Indane get their supplies only after two months. The shortage of LPG Cylinders encourages black-marketeers who fleece innocent consumers.

Also, the LPG bottling plant of India Oil Corporation in Kochi stopped production in one of its units which further aggravated the shortage of LPG. There is a shortage of around 7,500 cylinders a day following the stoppage of operation in one of its units. People have to wait for months to get LPG refill. It is learnt that the bullet tankers from Mangalore were not arriving in Kerala for the last quite some time. However, 50 per cent of the supply is from Kochi Refineries and the production is continuing with the limited supply. Though, the operations at the Kozhikode and Parippally plants were not much affected, these plants are unable to meet the entire requirement of LPG in Kerala.

The LPG shortage in Kerala could only be solved with the completion of the interim LPG unloading facility at Cochin till the multi-user liquid terminal of the Cochin Port trust comes up. It is learnt that this proposal is yet to get the clearance from the Centre.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take immediate steps to clear the proposal of setting up multi-user liquid terminal of the Cochin Port Trust and till this is cleared, complete the interim LPG unloading facility at Kochi immediately so that the problem of LPG shortage in Kerala is taken care of. I have been raising the demand for setting up of a Bottling Plant at Chengannur for a long time. If a Bottling Plant is set up at Chengannur, the shortage of LPG in Central Travancore will be eased. I request that immediate steps be taken in this direction.