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Title: Need to enhance allocation of Kerosene to Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (SALEM): Thank you, Madam, for giving me this opportunity to raise an important public issue.

There is an urgent need to enhance the monthly allotment of kerosene to Tamil Nadu for distribution under PDS. Time and again, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been persistently pleading with the Centre to allocate 65,140 KL of kerosene per month, which is the minimum requirement of Tamil Nadu.

18.07 hrs (Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh *in the Chair*)

For the reasons best known, the Central Government is bent on reducing the allocation of kerosene to Tamil Nadu. It was reduced from 65,140 KL to 39,420 KL by the Centre. Now, we are getting 44,580 KL. No logic or reason was there behind the reduction. The reduction is due to the increase of LPG connections in the State. That is what the Centre says. Even if the allocation is based on the number of LPG connections, the Centre's calculations is wrong. Nearly one crore LPG connections are there in Tamil Nadu but the public sector oil companies are showing the figure as if 1.35 crore connections in Tamil Nadu. This is a misinformed report.

Even after repeated demands made by the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, there is no positive response from the Centre. The Centre is silent on this issue. Where will it lead to? It will lead to sufferings of the people of Tamil Nadu, that too of those who are living below the poverty line. Then, what else?

So, I would urge upon the Centre to kindly heed to the request of our leader, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, to restore the previous allocation of 65,140 KL kerosene at least and relieve the poor from the untold misery which they are facing now.