

an>

Title: Need to direct Indian Oil Corporation to expedite the construction of bulk oil storage tanks.

MOHAMMED FAIZAL (LAKSHADWEEP): Madam Speaker, I thank you very much for allowing me to speak.

Madam, you know that supply of petroleum products in Lakshadweep is a very big question mark before us. As of now, we do not have any public sector undertaking of Government of India's retail outlets in any of the islands. Therefore, we depend on the local retail outlets either in Kerala or Mangalore. We are paying high tax to them and transporting those materials to the island whereas now we are in the process of developing fisheries and other sectors for which fuel is an essential part.

Taking that into consideration, Lakshadweep Administration made an agreement with Indian Oil Corporation to construct bulk oil storage tanks. As of now, there are two bulk storage tanks constructed in Kavarati and Minicoy. Two years have completed, but still the IOC is not in a position to, or could not, supply the fuel to these tanks. On the other hand, there are three other islands also where the land-owners have given their consent to construct the oil storage tanks. It is very essential for the future growth of the islands.

I urge upon the Government that the Petroleum Ministry may take a note of this and may direct the IOC to complete the process as quickly as possible. Thank you very much.