

This comes to alert the Government that such a monopoly can hold the entire subcontinent to ransom by simply engineering a port strike in all the ports of DPW in India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka and paralyse total exports and imports to these countries and consequently devastate the economies of these three countries.

SHRI AJAY MAROO (Jharkhand): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA): Shri Ramdas Agarwal, absent; Shrimati Hema Malini, absent. Next, Shri P.R. Rajan.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, this is his maiden speech.

Need to increase allocation of wheat and kerosene for PDS in Kerala

SHRI P.R. RAJAN (Kerala): The Public Distribution System in Kerala has been in existence from 1966, and its performance is widely acclaimed. It has been an effective instrument in checking the price of foodgrains and other essential items viz. sugar, edible oil and kerosene. But the changes made by the Government of India from time to time have weakened the scheme. These changes are restriction of sugar to BPL cardholders, reduction of subsidies and continuous cut in the allocation of kerosene. The last of these series of changes is the reduction in the allocation of wheat for the PDS in the State. It may be noted that Kerala is more than 85 per cent deficit in the production of foodgrains, and its requirements are met by PDS foodgrains from outside the State. In this situation, reduction of allocation of foodgrains effected by the Government of India is quite detrimental to the Targetted Public Distribution System in the State.

Kerosene is also one among the essential commodities and an item of daily use by the poor sections of the society. In Kerala, kerosene is distributed to ration cardholders at the rate of two litres for electrified houses and five litres for non-electrified houses per month. Besides, permits for cooking, fishing, agriculture, etc. have also been issued.

So, the allocation of wheat and kerosene may kindly be enhanced for sufficient distribution of these items through PDS in Kerala. Thank you.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

[3 August, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT (Gujarat): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

Need to raise coffee plantations in Vishakapatnam and East Godvari Districts of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, my Special Mention is regarding raising of coffee plantations in 10,000 hectares of degraded forest lands in Eastern Ghats of Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, during the years 1970s and 1980s, Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation has raised about 4000 hectares of coffee plantations in Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts. It has shown excellent results, besides creating sustainable employment opportunities to the local tribal community. Further expansion of these areas were stopped after the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 came into force.

The expansion of coffee plantation is proposed in the same zone as the climate and other conditions are quite suitable for coffee cultivation. The degraded forest land and abandoned podu cultivated area can be brought out under coffee cultivation. This will help in providing employment to the tribals and remove poverty and wean them away from podu cultivation. It will also help to conserve the precious soil and moisture in the area. The project, submitted by the A.P. Forest Development Corporation for covering 10,000 hectares initially will provide employment to 5000 families, is lying with the Government of India. This proposal may be approved immediately. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA): Shri M.V. Mysura Reddy; not present सदन की कार्यवाही कल दिनांक 4.8.2006 प्रातः 11 बजे तक के लिए स्थगित की जाती हैं।

The House then adjourned at thirty-six minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 4th August, 2006