

Prime Minister on 28th August, 2006, when he visited Odisha. Our hon. Chief Minister also raised that demand in 49th meeting of the National Development Council on 1st September, 2001; in the 50th meeting of NDC on 21st December, 2002; in 56th meeting of NDC on 22nd October, 2011; and also in 57th meeting of NDC on 27th December, 2012.

We have not only raised the demand for Special Category Status for Odisha but we have also sought modification in the criteria for according Special Category Status to the State of Odisha. Odisha satisfies most of the criteria for Special Category Status except that it does not have an international boundary. Odisha has a very high concentration of Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste population. It is one of the major poorest States and has very adverse socio-economic and human development indicators. Its per-capita income is still quite low compared to the national average despite our best development efforts during the last decade.

Our hon. Chief Minister submitted a memorandum to his Excellency, the President of India, which had been signed by more than one crore people of Odisha, on 12th June, 2013. Raghuram Rajan Committee has also observed that Odisha needs a special category treatment.

I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister of India to confer a Special Category Status to the State of Odisha at the earliest.

SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Bhupinder Singh.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Shri A.U. Singh Deo - not present. Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa - not present. Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya - not present. Shri Hishey Lachungpa - not present. Shri P.L. Punia - not present. Shri Veer Singh - not present. Shri M.P. Achuthan - not present. Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda - not present. Shri K.R. Arjunan.

Need for more allocation of kerosene from Central Pool to Tamil Nadu

SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has expressed anguish over reduction in the allotment of kerosene from the Central Pool to the State. The former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu remarked that the Centre had announced that the kerosene allotment for the State will be 29,060 kilolitres per month for the April-June quarter. This reduction was the biggest cut imposed on any of the States.

The former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has termed the process of allotment of Kerosene totally opaque and arbitrary. The basis and rationale of the allotment was not shared with the States nor was it based on any data which the States provided. It would only be fair if the allotment was based on the information provided by oil marketing companies.

There has been a drastic reduction in the allotment for Tamil Nadu. The unjust and arbitrary under-allocation of kerosene by the Central Government to Tamil Nadu to the extent of more than 55 per cent against the actual requirement, amounts to penalizing the poor people of Tamil Nadu, who are being deprived of their eligible entitlement of kerosene by the capricious cuts in the allocation of kerosene to the State.

The former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has sought the Prime Minister's decisive intervention in the matter to undo the injustice done to Tamil Nadu. The entire requirement of 65,140 kilolitres of kerosene per month needs to be allotted to the State by the Central Government. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Shri Motilal Vora - not present. Shri Avinash Pande.

**Need to take immediate measures to provides self-defence articles to
women to protect them from heinous crimes**

SHRI AVINASH PANDE (Maharashtra): Sir, in view of the alarming increase in crimes against women, it has become absolutely necessary to take immediate and effective steps for ensuring safety of women. Earlier, the hon. Home Minister informed the House that in 2014, a little over 14,000 women have received self-defence training. The number of rapes reported in India every year is more than double this number. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, 33,707 rape cases were reported in 2013. Installing of CCTV cameras does not prevent rapes and molestations, and rudimentary self-defence training is not a foolproof measure to protect women. As an immediate measure, I demand from the Government, a scheme to provide pepper sprays and taser guns to all women, free of cost, for self-defence. This is a radical measure but carrying these devices all the time will empower women instantly, and, it will temporarily incapacitate the attacker. This will give women time to escape or call for help from the police so that such attackers can be apprehended and punished to the full extent of the law.