

## PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 9.4.2013 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Dr. Manmohan Singh**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is reproduced below:

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"I write to bring to your notice another instance of arbitrary, unfair treatment meted out to Tamil Nadu by the Government of India, this time in the allotment of kerosene for the Public Distribution System. You would recall that I had already written to you on 1.6.2011, 25.5.2012 and 10.6.2012, protesting against earlier reductions in the monthly allotment of kerosene to Tamil Nadu and requested you to allot 65,140 KL per month, which is the actual requirement of the State. This request was also included in the Memorandum that I had submitted to you in person on 14.6.2011.

Even while all these requests were pending examination in the Government of India, as acknowledged by your own office, it is extremely distressing to find that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has persisted in repeatedly reducing the allotment of kerosene to Tamil Nadu. It has gone down from 52,806 KL per month fixed from the April-June, 2011 quarter to 44,576 KL in the January-March, 2012 quarter and was further reduced to 42,460 KL in the April-June 2012 quarter. It has further gone down to 39,429 KL per month from the July-September, 2012 quarter onwards.

I am shocked to learn that now, in the latest order dated 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2013, this already very low level of allotment has been further drastically slashed to 29,060 KL per month for the April - June, 2013 quarter. This reduction is the biggest cut imposed on any of the States. Tamil Nadu has been singled out for such a drastic reduction. The allotment of kerosene to most other States has been maintained at former levels with virtually no reduction.

The process of allotment of kerosene is totally opaque and arbitrary. The basis and rationale of the allotment is not shared with the States nor is it based on any data which the States provide. It would only be fair that if the allotment is based on information provided by oil marketing companies, such information should also be shared with the State Governments to enable them to make timely representations or corrections. It is learnt that a large number of LPG connections have been given in other major States also, and in some cases, more than in Tamil Nadu in the period from April to December 2012. However, there has been no reduction in the kerosene allotment for those States.

Given the arbitrariness and opacity that characterises the kerosene allotment decisions and the lack of any specific reasons that have been cited for the drastic reduction in the allotment for Tamil Nadu, all this leads me to wonder why Tamil Nadu is being targeted for such unfair and vindictively harsh treatment by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Is the

Government of India punishing Tamil Nadu for running one of the most efficient Public Distribution Systems in the country?

The unjust and arbitrary under-allocation of kerosene by the Government of India to Tamil Nadu to the extent of more than 55% against the actual requirement is 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.

I request your urgent and decisive intervention in this matter to undo the injustice done to Tamil Nadu and to allot the entire requirement of 65,140 KL of kerosene per month. As an immediate interim measure, I request that the Government of India should at least restore the allotment to 52,806 KL per month, which was the level of allotment for the April-June, 2011 quarter.

May I request an early response in this regard?"

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