

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title : To release compensation for the fishermen community of Kerala in Vizhinjam

Shri Hibi Eden (Ernakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising a major concern regarding the fishermen community of Kerala in Vizhinjam where the International Vizhinjam Seaport Limited was floated in 2015. For the last 140 days, the fishermen community of Vizhinjam has been on a huge agitation mainly because their life and livelihood have been destroyed by the construction of the seaport which is being done by a private group called Adani. The seaport construction is going on, and on the northern side there has been a huge sea erosion. Three hundred families have been living in a cement godown for the last four years. This particular fishermen community has contributed its land ages before for the development of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre. The Church, the Bishop House, the cemetery, everything was demolished for the development of that huge organisation of national importance.

The allegation the State Government is making is that the fishermen community is against the development of the port, which is not right. They have been in touch and they have given all the support for the development of the port. But the fishermen community's life and livelihood are being disturbed. A Central package should be announced for their rehabilitation. Rs.5,500 was the only amount which was sanctioned for giving rent.

The agitation is over yesterday, but their demands which are genuine are not yet met by the State Government. I would like the Central Government also to declare a package because this is a very important port.

Sir, a scientific committee has to be appointed where the interests of the local fishermen, the sea erosion, etc., should be studied. The State Government was saying that they would use Adani CSR funds for the rent which is not acceptable. This is a very genuine demand. The Central Government should look into it.