

Regarding the issues related to the Fishermen of Kerala

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Thank you Madam Chairperson for giving me an opportunity to raise one of the most important issues relating to the fishermen of Kerala. Everybody knows that the plight of fishermen nowadays is very miserable. Due to various reasons, particularly due to weather, they are not in a position to catch fish and they are facing very many different problems everyday. The kerosene supply is not at all there. Therefore, fishing has become a difficult thing.

Now, the fishermen of Kerala are totally depending upon the debt from the cooperative society. The apex body of the cooperative society is NCDC. Earlier, there was a central subsidy for the fishermen for taking this loan. Earlier, when the UPA was in power, 25 per cent of subsidy was there from NCDC and NABARD like organisations. When the NDA came to power, gradually this subsidy on loan for the fishermen has been reduced and now, it is totally stopped. What is happening in the coastal areas? The suicide thing will happen because the fishermen's condition is like that only. They are in a position to commit suicide. It is because every fisherman is in debt. There is no subsidy at all. The Government of India is talking about the poor people. But the entire action is against the poor. How will the poor fishermen live? Therefore, my request to the hon. Government is to introduce the subsidy for the fishermen. Why are you penalizing the fishermen? They are the poor people of this country. Like tribals, our fishermen are residing near the seashore. Both the tribals and the fishermen are in the same condition. We need to treat them in a very good manner. On the other side, the Government of India is penalizing the fishermen to the maximum extent.

My request to the Government is that they need to immediately look into this matter and reintroduce the subsidy for the poor fishermen.