

Need to ensure sustainable management of marine resources and protection of interests of coastal fisherfolk in the country-Laid

SHRI HIBI EDEN (ERNAKULAM): I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the issue of sea mining under the 'Unlock Blue Economy' programme, which is causing severe environmental degradation and threatening marine biodiversity, flora, and fauna. In the current situation, with climatic changes and the depletion of fish wealth, (malsya varalcha) there is a looming fish famine, leaving the fishing community deeply worried. This undemocratic move ignores fisherfolk and their rights. No scientific studies or expert agency involvement has been ensured. According to MPEDA, India's marine wealth is immense—a blessing for foreign trade, local needs, and citizens' health and well-being. Fishermen, who regard the sea as their mother, (kadamma) must have priority over it. I urge the Government to halt mining activities, involve stakeholders, and revise policies to ensure sustainability and fairness for coastal communities.