

## **Regarding illegal fishing practices in Kerala**

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM):** Madam, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Fisheries to the critical issue of on-going illegal fishing practices in the territorial waters of Kerala. The Government of India has prohibited harmful fishing methods such as bull or pair trawling and the use of artificial or LED lights for fishing in Indian waters in our Exclusive Economic Zone. But these practices are continuing in Kerala's waters. Outsiders are conducting exploitative, large-scale fishing, which ultimately endangers marine resources through rapid fish resource depletion and threatens the livelihoods of our small and traditional fisherfolk. Additionally, the traditional fishermen have faced assaults by bull trawlers.

Additionally, the traditional fishermen have faced assaults by bull trawlers and fishers using LED lights, further highlighting the urgent need to protect their livelihoods. These practices also go against India's new economic policy framework, the Maritime India Vision 2030, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. I, therefore, urge the hon. Minister to enforce the prohibition on and effectively curb bull trawling and the use of artificial lights or LED lights by involving the Coast Guard and the Indian Navy in this matter and strengthening coordination between them.