

## **Regarding issue pertaining to fishermen of Andhra Pradesh**

**SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY (NELLORE):** Thank you, hon. Chairperson Sir, for giving me an opportunity to raise a matter of deep concern to lakhs of fishing families in Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, Andhra Pradesh, with a coastline of 974 kilometres, has the second longest coastline. Our main economy is with these fishermen families. As the whole country knows - this blue economy you can say - most of the aqua and marine products are from Andhra Pradesh. Most of them are exported out of the country. There is an issue regarding this in Andhra Pradesh.

Actually, fishermen in Juvvaladinne and Isukapalli in Nellore district have faced repeated intrusions by mechanised steel boats from Puducherry and Tamil Nadu, which enter Andhra Pradesh waters, destroy nets worth lakhs, seize their catch, and cause frequent conflicts resulting in severe financial loss and insecurity for the traditional fishermen of Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, because of these pressures, many of our traditional fishermen now aspire to shift towards deep sea fishing, where they can operate safely and productively. But the current subsidy framework under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana makes this transition extremely difficult. The unit cost of a deep sea vessel is Rs.120 lakh, with a subsidy of Rs.72 lakh for SC and ST fishermen, and only Rs.48 lakh for OBC fishermen. For most traditional families, this cost is simply beyond reach. As a result, even after the inauguration of the Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbour, which the Andhra Pradesh Government has constructed, there are not enough deep sea boats to utilise the harbour fully. Fishermen are, instead, seeking support for medium-sized boats costing around Rs.60 lakh, which are easier to operate and maintain. Due to the financial impact of these vessels, they are not able to buy these boats which Tamil Nadu and Puducherry people are affording, and it costs about Rs.120 lakh, which create a lot of damage to our fishermen community.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kindly put your demand. What is your demand?

**SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:** Sir, I am concluding. Sir, I would request the Government to establish a joint inter-State coordination mechanism to

continuously monitor boundary zones, prevent illegal entry of mechanised boats, and ensure real time protection of traditional fishermen.

Now, I will move to financial assistance and target support. Special financial packages must be provided to Andhra Pradeshs fishing community, particularly to support the transition towards deep sea fishing as the current fleet strength is insufficient to compete with neighbouring States. They do not have steel boats which the neighbouring States are using.

Andhra Pradeshs fishermen are hard working and vital to Indias marine economy. They deserve safety, fair access to waters, better infrastructure, and a realistic pathway to deep sea fishing. I therefore urge the hon. Minister of Fisheries to take urgent steps to address cross-border fishing intrusions and revise vessel subsidy norms for Andhra Pradeshs fishermen.

माननीय सभापति : माननीय इकरा चौधरी जी - उपस्थित नहीं ।

श्रीमती भारती पारधी ।