

Title: Import of fish from Thailand and its impact on fisheries industry in India.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : Sir, the fisheries sector comes under the Ministry of Agriculture. Even while the discussions on Demands for Grants of that Ministry took place in the House, nothing was mentioned about fisheries.

Fishermen from various parts of the country are staging a *dhama* at Jantar Mantar for the past two days under the leadership of the Fishermen Co-ordination Committee in order to draw the attention of the Government to the miserable situation in the lives of poor fishermen.

There are various problems facing the fishing industry, especially in the traditional fishing sector, which include insufficient supply of subsidised kerosene, cess on diesel used by motorised craft, and unscrupulous issue of licences to foreign fishing vessels. Now, there is also a move on the part of the Government to import fish from Thailand. I think, this is a blow to the poor fishermen.

Actually, last year, we have exported nearly 6,500 tonnes of fish to foreign countries. Still, we are importing fish from Thailand. This has created chaos in the fishing industry. So, I urge upon the Government to withdraw the move to import fish from Thailand and to withdraw the licences given to foreign vessel. Now, there are about 311 foreign fishing vessels operating in the Indian seacoast. This creates difficulties in the fishing sector.

So, I urge upon the Government to withdraw the licences given to these fishing vessels and to provide sufficient quantity of subsidised kerosene to traditional fishermen. I also urge upon the Government to create a separate Ministry for the fisheries sector.

**12.47 hrs.**

#### **MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 - Contd.**

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up matters under rule 377. Some of these matters may be taken up after the luncheon recess.

Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana - Absent.

Shri Madhusudan Mistry. You may please raise your matter under rule 377 relating to TV relay tower at Banaskantha, not the other one.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (SABARKANTHA): That was important.

MR. SPEAKER: This is also important. This is in your constituency.