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Title: Problems being faced by the fishermen community in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu due to the tardy implementation of relief measures by the Government.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (NAGERCOIL): Sir, I wish to invite the considered attention of the Government over the pitiable plight of the fishermen in the coastal as well as in the inland villages of Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu. Apart from their lives being toned up by the tsunami killer waves two years back, they are languishing in life due to the tardy implementation of the relief measures by the Government. They are not giving adequate relief for the losses suffered due to natural calamities such as frequent high tides, seasonal gales and gusts in the seas. They are being deprived of monetary assistance announced as distress relief by the Government.

It is pleaded that the Government should immediately come forward to give distress allowance for fishermen's subsistence who are prevented by the Government from venturing into seas during the fertilizing seasons, at least for three months. It should be paid to those who are prevented by the natural disturbances in the seas. Such allowance should also be given to the womenfolk who are solely dependent on fishing and to those in the inland villages, who live on sea products. Importantly, the loans raised from the banks by the fishermen who were affected by the tsunami should be waived off. Central relief of Rs. 1 lakh should be announced for the legal heirs of tsunami affected villagers. It should be paid for the remaining heirs, who have not been paid so far.

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