

Title: Regarding plight of fishermen in Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (NAGERCOIL): Sir, I wish to draw the urgent attention of the Government to the vicissitudes being faced by the fishermen of Kanyakumari district. In 58 villages and hamlets, along the 64 km. stretch of shores of the tri-seas in Kanyakumari, from Kanyakumari to Thoothoor, their livelihood depended on fishing and sea produces. Fishing and the related trade contribute considerably for the economic development of Southern States. Appreciable foreign exchange is also earned through fishing operations.

But it is pitiable to mention that the fishermen venturing into the sea are exposed to risks, very recurring incidents are steeply increasing. Fishermen trapped in such calamities are swept away to unidentifiable locations in the deep sea. They often face death by drowning, as woefully reported. It is to be mentioned that during the last one month, such incidents have taken place in villages in Ramanthurai, Periavilai, Maramadi and Kodimunai of my constituency. Hearing the news, usually local people set out in country boats for search operations. But the risk lies more in availing of the assistance of the official rescue machinery from Tuticorin, Vizhigam and Cochin which are far away from the Kanyakumari shores. It often happens that some such fishermen die by drowning before the rescuers start their operations.

On 22nd of last month, two fishermen, Shri Amalraj and Shri Justin Raj from Kodimunai went for fishing and were missing since then. After much persuasion, the district administration could avail the service of the rescue team only after two days. Unfortunately, only one is rescued and the other drowned and died.

Under such circumstances, I would like to request the Government to set up a Coast Guard Centre at Kanyakumari. When a helipad facility is already available, that Centre should be equipped with Helicopter, search vessels and divers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House now stands adjourned till 11 a.m. tomorrow.

18.23 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock
on Friday, March 02, 2007/Phalguna 11, 1928 (Saka).*

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