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Title: Need to provide financial assistance to the Boat Racing Associations in Kerala.

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Kerala boat race is a yearly event that takes place in the month of August or September in Alapuzza. Representing the unique cultural heritage and traditional legacy of Kerala, the boat race is one of the exciting socio-cultural events of the State.

The most impressive of all the boat races of Kerala is the snake Boat Race, which is commonly referred to as Chundavallams. The brilliant performance of the rowers portays the inherent sporting zeal and sportsman spirit of the local inhabitants of the southern State of India. Our former Prime Minister Late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was so impressed with the Snake Boat Race of Kerala that he awarded the Nehru Trophy to the winners. Till today, the winners of the Snake Boat race is awarded the coveted Nehru Trophy.

Thousands of participants participate in Boat Racing in Kerala. It also attracts tourists, domestic and foreigners, in large number. In fact, during the months of boat racing, Kerala becomes a hotspot of communal harmony, secularism and national integrity since people from all sections of the society participate in the Boat Racings.

At present, the Government of India is not extending any financial assistance or grant-in-aid for the Kerala Boat Club Racings. The Kerala Boat Club Associationn has been demanding the staus of sportspersons to the boat Racers since it is a sporting event. Every year, the Organising Committees incur huge financial losses since they are unable to meet the financial aspect of the Boat Races. The Boat Racing Associations have been demanding grant of financial assistance for a long time.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to provide financial assistance to the Boat Racing Associations in order to encourage Boat Racing in Kerala.