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Title : Need to set up a Fishing Harbor at Uvari in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu and to provide adequate cold storage facility for preserving fish and other sea foods therein.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to raise a matter of urgent public importance.

Uvari is a coastal village with about 4000 households and a population of 15000 situated in my Tirunelveli constituency. The main occupation of the people is fishing. Many men work as sailors and contributing to the local economy. They are dispatching huge quantities to neighbouring State of Kerala, a major consumer of fish and the fishes are exported from Tuticorin port to countries like USA, Singapore and Europe. Eral fishes are available in large quantities in and around Uvari. Ordinary Eral fetches about Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 per kilogram and during the seasons the fishermen in the area earns more income out of this. There are various types of Eral, like Naran, Flower, Tiger, Singi as also in various colours. They are being sold at Rs. 2000 per kilogram at the maximum.

The fishes are perishable in nature. Other than Eral, there are other fishes which also breed and are harvested in this area. On some auspicious week days the sale of fishes are usually less and the left out stocks cannot be stored for long. So, the fishermen community in the area is facing a lot of difficulties due to non-availability of cold storage facilities and is incurring huge losses. A huge potential for fishing is available in our area and the demand of the people is for establishment of a harbour in the area.

I would like to therefore urge upon the Union Government to set up a fishing harbour and to provide for cold storage facilities at Uvari in my Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu at the earliest.