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Title: Need to set up a Fishing Harbour and provide adequate cold storage facilities for preservation of seafoods at Uvari in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Uvari is a coastal village with about 4,000 households and a population of 15,000 situated in my Tirunelveli Constituency, Tamil Nadu. The main occupation of the people is fishing. Many of the men work as sailors and are contributing to the local economy.

Large number of fishermen from this village venture into the sea daily to capture various kinds of Eral fish. Eral is the speciality of Uvari. They are dispatching huge quantities of fish to neighbouring Kerala States, a major consumer of fish and Tuticorin from where the fishes are exported to various countries Viz., USA, Singapore and European countries. Over the years, the consumption of fishes/Eral in Tamil Nadu is also increasing rather than meat which is considered good for health. Eral is not available in all places and this fish is caught in large quantities from June to October within a few kms. radius of Uvari. Ordinary Eral fetches about Rs. 4000 to Rs. 5000 for a kg. and during season, the fishermen in the area earns more income. There are various types of erals Viz., Nran, Flower, Tiger, Singi as also in various colours. They are being sold at the most to Rs. 1,5000 – Rs. 2,000 a kg. Uvari Eral is believed as favorite among the fish eaters and they are moderate in size, high in quality and tasty. Considering the huge potential for fishing in this region, setting up of a fishing harbor at Uvari is a viable option.

The fishers are perishable in nature. During auspicious week days and religious days, sale of fishes are usually less and the left out stocks cannot be stored for long. Hence, the fishermen are facing lot of difficulties due to non-availability of cold storage facilities and incurring huge losses. Such facilities along with fishing harbours are available much in Kerala whereas these facilities are lacking in Tamil Nadu.

I shall, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to set up a Fishing Harbour and to provide adequate Cold Storage Facilities for preservation of sea foods at Uvari in my Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu at the earliest.