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Title: Need to take welfare measures for development of fishing community in Warangal district, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI RAJAIAH SIRICILLA (WARANGAL): I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding the problems being faced by fishing community in Warangal District, Andhra Pradesh.

In this regard, I would like to state that the fishing community have no proper infrastructure facilities such as dry fish platforms, cold storage, mini ice plant, community resource centres, etc. Proper connectivity from sea-shore to carry fish products should be improved. Proper facilities should be provided for boat repairs, engine repairs, provision of high speed diesel HSD oil etc. Investment should be increased for catching fish and fish products. But they lack post-harvesting technology thereby incurring heavy losses in this risky profession. In villages, community economy is affected due to loss of fishing assets during cyclone and rainy season. Insurance of fishing assets is the need of the hour. The people of this community who are engaged with salt farming are also facing problems in their primary livelihood. They are lacking shelters, drinking water at salt production sites, ownership of land etc. The Government is charging high industrial power tariff. This should be lowered immediately. There is no credit facility for salt farming from banks and other financial institutions. There should be a provision of budget to address issues of salt farming with a view to further the interests and welfare of this community. Permanent residential houses should be allotted in villages to the fishing community particularly who are below the poverty line.

Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture to take steps to improve social status of this fishing community by increasing reservation percentage in proportionate to their population for their overall welfare.