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title: Issue regarding plight of the fishermen in Lakshadweep.

MOHAMMED FAIZAL (LAKSHADWEEP): Hon. Madam Speaker, I am thankful to you for allowing me to raise a very important issue. Last time also I missed my 'Zero Hour' opportunity.

It is an issue concerning the plight of the fishermen in Lakshadweep. You know that one-fifth of India's Exclusive Economic Zone belongs to Lakshadweep. It is nearly 4.02 lakh square kilometre Exclusive Economic Zone that we have.

Madam, 1.15 million metric tonne potential is there in Lakshadweep, but the so far exploited quantity is just 15,000 metric tonne. One and the only produce of the fishermen of Lakshadweep is 'mass mean' which is a local name there, and it is called Dry Tuna Fish. The consuming country of this Dry Tuna Fish is Sri Lanka. Now, all these years, it has been going to Sri Lanka through the middlemen.

A large chunk of profit was being taken away by the middlemen. To stop that, the Lakshadweep Administration has thought of procuring this mass mean through its cooperatives. This year, they have started the procurement of dry Tuna Fish from the fishermen through the cooperatives. Around 250 metric tonnes is in the stock. Now, to topple that, the middleman has again started sending the same product in a *mala fide* manner without explicitly saying that this is a dry Tuna Fish. They are saying that it is the assorted fish. These middlemen are doing this just to topple the market and to disturb the price that the fishermen are getting.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government through you, Madam, that those exports which are going by the name of dry fish, the product's name should clearly be mentioned. If it is a Tuna Fish, it should be named as dry Tuna Fish. The disguise that these middlemen are showing is that it is the assorted fish. They are simply sending any material in the name of that and toppling the market.

I would also like to submit two things in this regard. First, the Government – MPEDA is the controlling authority – should take note of it. The exported goods name should be there. Secondly, since this has been toppled, there is a chance of loss for the fishermen and the cooperatives. Therefore, my request to the Government is that, if such a request from the Lakshadweep Administration comes for compensation of the fishermen, it may be considered. Thank you very much.

माननीय अध्यक्ष :

श्री शरद त्रिपाठी,

श्री कामाख्या प्रसाद तासा,

कुंवर पुष्पेन्द्र सिंह चंदेल,

श्री एन.के.प्रेमचंदन तथा

श्री मुल्तापल्ली रामचंदन को श्री मौलाना फजल द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।