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Title: Regarding Cuddalore Fishing Harbour in Tamilnadu.

\*SHRI A.ARUNMOZHITHEVAN (CUDDALORE): Hon. Madam Speaker, Vanakkam. Cuddalore port is one of the ancient ports of southern part of Indian peninsula. This port is one among the smalls ports and also a fishing port. For the past several years, desilting work has not been carried out in this Cuddalore port. Due to this, the fishing boats crash onto the shore and as a result of these mishaps precious lives are lost. In around some 50 such accidents, more than 20 fishermen lost their precious lives.

It is therefore much needed to carry out work relating to deepening of berth and desilting in Cuddalore port. The quay of the Cuddalore fishing port needs refurbishment. The berth which is of low depth should be deepened and other issues like accumulation of mud and soil erosion should be dealt with. The precious lives of fishermen of Cuddalore should be protected.

The Coastal Zone Regulatory Authority has to grant its approval for carrying out desilting and deepening work in Cuddalore port. I urge the Union government to grant approval and also allocate adequate funds. The local fishermen staged demonstrations in this regard. Hon'ble Fisheries Minister of Tamil Nadu, District Collector of Cuddalore, and the Commissioner of Fisheries Department of Tamil Nadu held meetings with the agitating fishermen. As a result, the fishermen withdrew their agitation and are waiting for prompt action to be taken by the Government.

I therefore urge the Union government to take necessary action in this regard for carrying out desilting and deepening work in Cuddalore port. Thank you.

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\*English translation of the speech orginally delivered in Tamil.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : श्री जुगल किशोर शर्मा - उपरिथत नहीं।