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Title: Issue regarding sad plight of the fisher folk along the coastal belt of the country.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to raise an important issue relating to the sad plight of the fisher folk along the coastal belt of our country.

Sir, our country's marine wealth is fast depleting and many species of fish are vanishing due to over exploitation and indiscriminate catching of baby fish resulting in acute shortage of fish along the Indian coast. This causes abject poverty and unemployment among the fisher folk. Foreign vessels also reach our coast and haul away our marine wealth.

I urge upon the Minister for Agriculture to take urgent steps to prevent further depletion of fishery wealth and, for this purpose, to bring a comprehensive legislation by involving all stakeholders including coastal States and Union Territories.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kurwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Mullapally Ramachandran.