

an>

Title: Regarding welfare fund scheme for fishermen.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): I want to raise before the House some important issues of the fishermen in various parts of the country, especially in Kerala. ...(*Interruptions*)

Now, the Central Government has given financial assistance to the fishermen as part of the Fishermen Welfare Fund Scheme but the unit cost under the Scheme is only Rs. 75,000 and 50 per cent has to be met by the State Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

As far as Kerala is concerned, it is not possible to construct a house with Rs. 75,000 since the price of construction materials and workers wages are increased. So, even though the present Scheme is implemented, it is impossible for the fishermen to construct houses without borrowing money from private persons at high interest rates. ...(*Interruptions*)

The Government of Kerala has increased the unit cost to Rs. 2,00,000 but the Central Government is giving only Rs. 37,500. As a result, the State Government has to bear a huge amount. ...(*Interruptions*) So, I request to increase the unit cost of the house under the Fishermen Welfare Fund as Rs. 2,00,000. Otherwise, it would be impossible for the Government to take a big financial burden or for fishermen to take their own means to construct houses. ...(*Interruptions*) Many of the houses for which construction has already started are lying in the half-way mark due to financial difficulty.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P.K. Biju, Shri M.B. Rajesh, Shri Joice George and Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P. Karunakaran.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Gutha Sukhender Reddy – not there. Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa.

...(*Interruptions*)