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Title: Need to initiate urgent action for the strict and comprehensive rules and mechanism for effective monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels in Indian waters.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission is in respect of the foreign vessels that are illegally fishing in Indian waters. This is causing huge loss to the country's exchequer and affecting the livelihood of domestic fishermen. Several vessels of foreign origin are misusing the Letter of Permit scheme of the Indian Government to exploit lucrative Indian fish resources. Under the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone, only registered Indian fishing vessels can operate. But the LOP scheme of Department of Fisheries allows Indian fishing firms to buy technologically advanced foreign vessels. Dual registration is illegal as per the guidelines of LOP scheme. Foreign vessels are flouting the law. Ineffective monitoring, control and surveillance of such vessels are causing huge loss. The LOP guidelines require all vessels registered under the scheme to send their positions on voyage reports to the nearest coastguard office regularly. They are also required to submit their reports to the Fisheries Survey of India. However, in both the cases it was found that these reports were not submitted. Hence, I urge upon the Government of India to initiate urgent action for the strict and comprehensive rules and mechanism for effective monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels in Indian waters. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P.K. Biju, Dr. A. Sampath are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri N.K. Premachandran.