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Title: Need to formulate a separate Ministry for fisheries.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Madam, I would like to raise a very important matter which is non-controversial and I hope that the whole House would agree with me.

It was an election promise of both the UPA and the NDA that the fisheries sector should have a separate Ministry and an independent Department. At present, the fisheries sector comes under the Ministry of Agriculture. So many issues affecting the coastal as well as the inland fishermen are there. In order to develop the fisheries sector, a separate Ministry and an independent Department of Fisheries is required. The present system of administration is not sufficient to address the issues concerning the fishermen in the country. It is a long pending issue and it is an election promise also of both the UPA and the NDA.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government of India to have a separate Ministry and an independent Department for looking after the affairs of the fisheries sector.