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Title: Need to take steps to bring manufacturing of Uru, a sea going vessel under Make-in-India banner.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Respected Chairman Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. Sir, I want to highlight the plight of an ancient industry exclusively handled by the Vishwakarma community in my constituency. The industry once flourished is now facing crisis.

Sir, Uru is a seagoing vessel made of wood, similar to the Arab Dhow and made with high quality wood by highly skilled carpenters at Beypore in Calicut, Kerala, which falls under my parliamentary constituency. Since ancient times it has been used as trading vessels. Good seaworthiness, durability and fine architecture of Urus have made them popular as seagoing passenger vessels also. These vessels are aggressively marketed to Qatar and other Gulf countries as luxury yachts. All the work, right from sawing logs of wood to launching, is done by hand in which around 35-40 people complete the work in about 24 months.

The Beypore Uru is the largest single piece of handicraft afloat. The vessel is moved to Dubai for outfitting and upholstery as these facilities are currently not available at Beypore. Sir, an Uru of 1000 tones will cost about Rs.8 crore to build the hull at Beypore. An equivalent amount is required at Dubai for outfitting and upholstery. If these activities are done at Beypore, each Uru could fetch Rs.16 crore in foreign currency. Falling under the unorganized sector without any corporate or government backup, it is very difficult to raise funds from financial institutions. Urus could be promoted as luxury yachts to rich, seafaring countries such as UAE, Brunei, Singapore, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Europe. A focused and dedicated promotion effort through Indian Missions in these countries could win orders.

Sir, it is requested that manufacturing of Urus should be brought under Make in India banner which can help obtain loan and facilitate for better marketing abroad. Secondly, in order to promote manufacturing, they may add the latest technology and also retain the ancient tradition. In this regard, a study should be conducted by the Government of India by constituting an Expert Committee.

Being one of the oldest manufacturing units in the country, Beypore should also have a museum on the evolution of Uru.

Thank you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON:

Adv. Joice George is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri M.K. Raghavan.