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Title: Regarding merger of Central Marine Fishing Research Institute with Fisheries University -laid..

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR (MUMBAI NORTH WEST): I want to raise a matter relating to a proposal to merge the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) Varsova, Mumbai Research Centre, which carries out research on fisheries with the Fisheries University, Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE).

Fisherfolk and Marine enthusiasts have opposed this move because CMFRI helps coastal communities with its studies on catchment areas and reports on potential threats to marine life. Fisherfolk are dependent on CMFRI for information on diversity of fish, existing stock and decreasing population. It will become difficult for them to get such information on a regular basis.

Marine experts feel that the State needs its own research centre that provides information on marine life.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to drop the proposal once and for all in the interest of the fishermen.