

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Regarding problems faced by fishing community of Mumbai North West Parliamentary Constituency.

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR (MUMBAI NORTH WEST): India is primarily an agricultural country and fishing constitutes an important activity. Maharashtra has about 720 Kms of sea-shore amongst which Juhu, Moragaon, Vesav shores are in my parliamentary constituency. In Mumbai North-West fishermen community is residing for the last many generations. They are engaged in traditional fishing business and are following the traditions for the last so many years. Though they face aggression of sea, withstand heavy storms and counter many problems yet, they continue to survive with their age-old business.

The proposed shipping corridor is about 15 to 35 knots from the shore and, in fact, this area is a breeding place of fish and where they are found in abundance. Since the proposed corridor is passing through this area, the fishing business would be affected. This has happened with other States also. Unfortunately, fishing community or organisations were not taken into confidence while proposing the said corridor.

In view of the facts, I request the Government to hold early discussions with the National Fish workers' forum and Maharashtra Machhimar Kruti Samiti, Mumbai before taking a final decision in the matter.