

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Issue regarding enhancement of licence fees on the machanised fishing boats in Kerala.

**SHRI M. K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE):** Thank you, hon. Speaker, Sir.

I wish to raise a very important issue related to the enhancement of licence fees on fishing merchants' mechanised boats by the Government of Kerala recently.

The Government of Kerala has increased the licence fee of the fishing mechanised boats to Rs.52,000 per annum from Rs.5,000, which is ten times the existing fee and a fee for violation of fishing norms has also been increased to Rs. 3 lakh. Similarly, smaller boats are now charged Rs. 21,000 per annum from Rs. 2,000. This is happening when other coastal States are collecting only Rs.500 as a fee.

Therefore, the State Government's policy has adversely affected the fishing sector of Kerala.

The fishing industry which provides one per cent of the GDP, is now in deep trouble with the depleting marine resources and increasing input costs.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to intervene immediately and ensure that the status quo is maintained and all the necessary help should be extended to this industry in the State, especially keeping in view that the fishermen community is one of the most unsecured sections, both financially and employment-wise. Thank you, Sir.

