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Title: Regarding plight of fishermen of Ramanathapuram Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI K. NAVASKANI (RAMANATHAPURAM): My constituency Ramanathapuram is a coastal area and has a long coastal line. The main occupation apart from agriculture is fishing. A considerable portion of the population is engaged in fishing. But the fishermen face a lot of difficulties. While fishing they get lost into territorial waters of Sri Lanka because of non-availability of any scientific equipment regarding navigation, and are often captured, harassed and even killed by Sri Lankan defence forces. During natural calamities like storm, high tides, tsunami etc. the fishermen lose their way and get stuck in the storm and are unable to return to the sea shore. It is very difficult to locate them and bring them to sea shore for want of GPS facilities. There is no Coast Guard in my constituency, who could help in this matter. During off season of fishing they get a paltry sum as subsistence allowance. I demand that subsistence allowance should be given by the Central Government also and the insurance cover should be increased. They should be given fishing nets, boats etc. at very subsidized rates. Government should chalk out a scheme for the health facilities and also for an old age pension scheme for fishermen. They should be given adequate quantity of diesel also. I, therefore, request the Government to take necessary action for the welfare of fishermen.

