

Prathapan, Shri T.N. Coastal Areas Marine Security Fishing Industry

Title : Regarding proposed amendment in Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002-Laid.

SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN (THRISSUR): The Government of India proposes a new legislation (amendments) in the Offshore Area Mineral (Development & Regulation) Act, 2002 that allows sand mining in coastal regions. According to the proposed plan, there is black sand placer deposit which can generate 120-billion-dollar income from the coast of Kerala. It is found in the area upto 100 meters depth from the coastal area. However, these unique resources of Kerala are becoming privatised. Kerala's offshore is also peculiar with presence of construction sand. For the fishermen, the land that was hitherto public property is now becoming the property of corporates. All the important fishing centres are located in the off seas of Kerala. Some of these are also home to India's richest marine species. About 3800 trawlers and more than 500 fibre canoes in Kerala are playing in this sector. We have to consider the dilapidated conditions in the coastal areas where the indiscriminate mining in the coastal areas took place that was done by public sector. If the mining activities are given to private players, the impact would be tragic. Considering the fragile environmental scenario and livelihood of thousands of people, the proposed plan to be reconsidered.