

## **Need to give aid to Kerala to construct new fishing harbours ? laid**

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM):** I wish to draw the Hon'ble Minister's attention to the unfortunate lack of fishing harbours in my Constituency, which is causing great distress to the sizable fishing community. Modern fishing harbours are essential to ensure sustainable livelihoods for the fishing community whose traditional fishing methods are severely affected by increased sedimentation and coastal erosion. More than 28 per cent of the entire fishermen community in the state of Kerala is from Thiruvananthapuram. Hundreds of families have lost their homes to coastal erosion and continue to live in relief camps. With every passing year, more families are getting displaced. Currently, there is only one proper fishing harbour in my Constituency at Vizhinjam, which is also not fully commissioned. There has long been a demand for one harbour each in Poonthura and Valiyathura, but no action has been taken to address this demand. I, thus strongly urge the Fisheries Department of the Government to give aid to Kerala to construct new harbours in a timely manner. By favourably considering this proposal, the Government will contribute to developing a much-needed support system for our fishermen, who are the backbone of the regional economy.