

Title: Demanded a statement from the concerned Minister regarding the plight of fishermen especially in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, lakhs of fishermen belonging to nine States had submitted a memorandum to the Government of India regarding their problems and grievances. After thorough discussions with the fishermen community and their leaders, the Government of India appointed the Murari Committee and the Committee submitted its report to the Government. But, so far, the Government has not implemented any of these recommendations.

Since last midnight, nearly 3,600 fishing trawlers – in the total coastline of Andhra Pradesh from Visakhapatnam, Machilipatnam, Nizampatnam, Kakinada to Nellore – have stopped fishing activities. Nearly one lakh families depend upon the fishing activity. The Government of India has also recently increased the berth charges from Rs. 200 to Rs. 1,000. The Government of India has also given licences to foreign vessels to catch fish in our seawaters. That is why our fishermen are not getting any catch.

Sir, our fishermen have invested lots of money. They have taken loans from all the nationalised banks. The situation today is that people of nearly 3,600 trawlers have gone on strike. The Government of India should look into it. I am requesting that the hon. Minister of Surface Transport should come and make a statement. This is a severe situation. The Murari Committee has submitted its report long ago.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA): Sir, I associate with the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Have you given any notice?

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I am requesting the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, through you, to take note of it.

This matter relates not to a single person or single individual; it relates to lakhs of people. In Andhra Pradesh, thousand kilometres of sea coast is there.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ashok Argal....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The Spokesperson of the Government would respond. ...(*Interruptions*) He is responding to every matter on behalf of the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am waiting for some reply. This matter relates to lakhs of fishermen. ...(*Interruptions*)

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री (श्री प्रमोद महाजन) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप जानते हैं कि शून्यकाल में जो विाय उठाये जाते हैं, उन पर तुरंत उत्तर देना मुमकिन नहीं होता। (व्यवधान) लेकिन यह महत्वपूर्ण विाय है और मुझे लगता है कि शायद शिपिंग मिनिस्ट्री से इसका संबंध नहीं है, यह एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री से संबंधित विाय है। आपने जो विाय रखा है, वह कृषि मंत्रालय से संबंधित है। और मैं इस संबंध में बातचीत करूंगा। (व्यवधान)