

Title: Need to implement the Marine Fishing Regulation Act with a view to safeguard the interests of fishermen community in the country- Laid.

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (UDUPI) : The fishermen community of India, especially from Dakshin Kannada region has been attempting to secure their just rights. The Centre has sent back the Marine Fishing Regulation Model Bill, drafted by Majumdar Committee to the States and nothing has come out of it. The Centre has not implemented the recommendations of high-powered Murari Committee which was accepted by the then Cabinet Committee. The recommendations *inter-alia* stressed the need to provide HSD and kerosene to traditional and small mechanized sector at subsidized rates, enactment of deep sea fishing regulations, cancellation of all licences issued to foreign fishing vessels by the Commerce Ministry and implementation of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRA) notifications after removing all impediments on the settlement of fishermen community across the shore-belt etc.

There is an urgent need to implement the Marine Fishing Regulation Act in all the coastal States. Further to liberate the fishermen community from the clutches of money-lenders, exporters and merchants, all fishermen co-operatives should be superseded and reconstituted with 100% representation/participation by the fishermen community.