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**Title:** Request the Central Government to take up the matter with the Eleventh Finance Commission for the development of fishermen community in the coastal areas of Kerala.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I am raising a very important matter regarding the fishermen community in the coastal areas of India.

As I understand, the Kerala Government had sent a proposal to the Eleventh Finance Commission for a project for the development of the fishermen community. In the first place, there must be a provision for nearly thousands of buildings for the occupation of fishermen. Secondly, there is an acute problem of drinking water that has to be solved. Thirdly, there is lack of communication. There are no roads. All these issues will have to be taken care of as a result of the implementation of this project. This project is pending with the Finance Commission for a long time. No action has been taken in this regard. But it is reported that they are considering it. In spite of our repeated representations, nothing has been done in this direction to better the conditions of the fishermen who are doing a service to the nation. They are making not only foreign exchange but also the best food available in the country. It is definitely supplied by the fishermen residing in the coastal areas of India.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take up the matter immediately with the Eleventh Finance Commission and necessary recommendations should be made to better their conditions which are presently bad even after more than 50 years of Independence.