

Title: Need to look into the problems being faced by fishing boat owners in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): About 3000 mechanised fishing boat owners operating in Andhra coasts are facing many problems. Although the Government of India grants a lot of subsidies to the prawn exporters, trawler operators, aqua-culture farmers and hatchery people, yet the fishing boat owners are being paid only Rs.185 per kilo of prawn against Rs.285/- being paid to them during the last year or so.

Action should also be taken to ensure that the mechanized boat owners get the reasonable rate for their prawn catch as the Government is getting a lot of foreign exchange or they may also be given subsidies by the Food Processing and Commerce Ministries of the Government of India.

The Visakhapatnam Port Trust Authorities have increased berth charges from Rs.230 to Rs.2069 per month per boat. I urge the Government of India to reconsider and reduce the berth charges at an affordable rate for the poor motor boat owners.

I also request the Agriculture Ministry not to sanction new licences and cancel the existing licences of foreign fishing trawlers and supply diesel at subsidized rates to the mechanized fishing boat owners who are all very poor people....(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (CANARA): Sir, mechanised boats on the coast are killing the traditional fishermen, who are not getting even the minimum price. Mechanised boats are supposed to go into the deep sea. Big agitations along the coast are goings on to prevent mechanised boats from coming close to the sea. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise this matter tomorrow in the Zero Hour. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : There must be a limit to the effect that mechanised boats can go within a range of certain kilometres for fishing. They are entering into the sea. Fishermen are asking the Government to give them subsidy. The poor old fishermen are dying there.