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Title: Need to set up a National Debt Relief Commission for Fishermen .

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Sir, the lives of fishermen is very miserable. I belong to the fishing community and I am very much convinced or rather experienced about the miseries of fishermen. Fishing is the only occupation where the wages are not guaranteed. The *per capita* income of fishermen is less than of that of an average Indian citizen. That means that have only half lives as compared to others. It is usually said that they are born in debts, continued to be in debt traps throughout their lives and leave behind debts to their family members when they die. So, an in-depth study of indebtedness of fishermen should be made.

Sir, the Government of Kerala has passed a legislation and constituted the Fishermen Debt Relief Commission. But even after repeated requests from the Government of Kerala, no assistance has been given to the State. There are a number of Fishermen Cooperative Societies from which most of the fishermen take credits were not included. That means a majority of fishermen are exempted from the debt relief.

So, I urge upon the Government to establish a national Debt Relief Commission for fishermen for an in-depth study of indebtedness of fishermen and give relief to them. In the meantime, the Debt Relief Commission formed by the Government of Kerala may be financially assisted by the Government of India.[\[a22\]](#)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri E. Dayakar Rao.