

Title : Need to ensure minimum support price for fish and marine products.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is regarding the need to ensure minimum support price for fish and marine products and the right to first sale of catch to the fishermen.

There are about 1.5 to 2 million fishermen in the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let there be silence in the House please.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : I am one among them. Our country is earning nearly Rs.6,300 crore from export of marine products. The estimated first sale value of the marine fish landing per year is nearly Rs.12,000 crore. But the plight of the fishermen who work for this is still backward. They belong to the most backward class of people. Even though they are earning crores of rupees for the country, their personal earnings are very meagre.

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening here? I am requesting the hon. leaders also to see that the Members keep silence.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : One of the reasons for this is that the fishermen are not getting remunerative price for their catch. ...(*Interruptions*) Even though the right to first sale of the catch is given to the fishermen, this is taken away by the middlemen who exploit them. Also, the marketing economy is that of buyers' market and not that of sellers' market.

MR. SPEAKER: You may have to condense your speech.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : In order to empower these backward classes, remunerative price for their catch should be ensured; exploitation by the middlemen should be stopped; and to control the market economy, cooperative movement in this sector should be strengthened and extended to areas where it is non-existent and a nationwide cooperative network should be established.

MR. SPEAKER: Too much whisper is going on in this House. Please maintain silence. It applies to the Treasury Benches also!

Shri Rajaram Pal[[R8](#)].