

Title : Post Tsunami changes in the Marine Eco-system of the Country.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir.

I would like to draw the attention of this august House to a very serious problem faced by the traditional fishermen after the Tsunami disaster. The devastating Tsunami of December 26, 2004, has caused tremendous changes in the marine eco-systems, which has resulted in the elimination and disappearance of many species of fishes and also appearance of some harmful organisms. A very uncommon phenomenon faced by the traditional fishermen is the appearance of a peculiar organism called puffer fish, which is a frog-like organism. It is toxic and not edible. It feeds on marine fishery. Moreover, when the puffer fish enters the net, it eats up the fish in the net and also causes damage to the net by its sharp jaws. This has caused great damage to the catch as well as to the nets. In Kerala alone, the damage caused is around Rs. 10 crore. A lot of applications are being received by the Fisheries Department of the Government of Kerala seeking help to overcome the damage caused by puffer fish.

I would urge upon the Government to make necessary studies upon the changes in the Marine ecosystem and also to monitor the movement of puffer fish flock and inform it to the fishermen so as to avoid fishing in those areas where puffer fish is abundant and also to provide financial assistance to the fishermen who have suffered damages by the puffer fish.