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Title : Situation arising out of closing of Calicut Research Centre, Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kerala.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (BADAGARA): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of this House towards the move of closure of the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) Research Centre at Calicut in Kerala.

The prestigious Research Centre has been in the forefront in lending a helping hand to the fisher folk and fishing industry of Malabar during the past four decades. Malabar region, which has a long coastline and constitutes half of Kerala is well-known for its fishing and allied fishery industrial activities, which constitute the major occupation and source of income of the people in the coastal districts of Malabar. Since this Research Centre is only one of its kind in the whole of Malabar region, closing down the Centre will lead to the denial of benefits of scientific innovations to the fishermen and the fishery industrialists.

If the proposal for closure of the Centre is implemented, it will prove to be highly detrimental to the interests of numerous large, medium and small-scale Sea Food Industries of North and Central Kerala. And also, it would be suicidal for the large number of dependent employees and their families.

I feel that this matter needs urgent attention and, therefore, I would request the Minister of Agriculture to kindly look into the matter and may be pleased to do the needful at the earliest.