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Title: Need to take immediate steps to stop the import of fishes from European Countries as a part of Indo - European Free Trade Agreement.

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (MUKUNDAPURAM) : The Central Government should drop immediately the steps to import fishes from European countries as part of Indo-European Free Trade Agreement.

Crores of traditional fishermen in India will be driven to starvation, if we import fishes from Thailand and other European countries.

The worst affected will be the 10 lakh fishing community members of Kerala. Like the farmers in the state, the fishing community too will be driven to mass suicide.

Fishes form a major export item of Kerala. Due to the wrong import policy of Central Government, the fish export from Kerala will come to a stand still, starvation and unemployment will spread and it will break the very economic backbone of our state.

To save the fisheries sector of India and Kerala, the Central Government should stop immediately the steps to import fishes from European countries.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam

श्री शैलेन्द्र कुमार (चायल) : महोदय, मैंने भी नोटिस दिया था। यह एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण मैटर है। ... (ब्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a State matter.