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Title: Need to revise the Export-Import policy with a view to withdraw the move to import palm oil and fish.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to an important matter. A policy of the Government is badly affecting around 8 million fishing workers and also about 4 million coconut growers in the country. Recently, our hon. Minister for Commerce and Industry visited Brussels, Belgium for negotiations on broad-based bilateral trade and investment agreement between India and European Union. Now the fisherman in the country are facing crisis because of the liberal policy adopted by the previous Government. They were allowing licence for the fishing trawler and because of that fish-catch is gradually diminishing. Moreover, as per Free Trade Agreement, around 40 varieties of fishes will be imported from the European Union. Out of this category, most of the fishes are similar to the fishes caught by the traditional fishermen. Out of these 40 categories, around six to eight varieties are used in European Union as chicken feed.[\[R81\]](#)

But these varieties are going to be imported to India. When these imported fishes come to the local market, the fishes caught by the traditional fishermen would not get remunerative prices for their catches. In accordance with the recent policy of the Government, palm oil is being imported from foreign countries. Recently, 15 MT of palm has been imported at Cochin port. The coconut growers in Kerala primarily depend on the prices of coconut and palm oil. If palm oil is imported, then the prices of coconut will get reduced. This is a very serious problem in Kerala. All this is due to the Exim Policy of the Government. I would like to request the Government to re-visit the Exim policy so that the interest of the traditional fishermen and the coconut growers are not affected and are well protected.