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Title : Need to undertake welfare measures through Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the fishermen of Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh.

DR. KRUPARANI KILLI (SRIKAKULAM): Srikakulam is one of the most backward districts in Andhra Pradesh. Srikakulam has a coastal length of 193 kms and has about 104 fishermen villages with a population of around two lakhs fishermen. This district is rich in marine fish and prawn. Because of its proximity to Visakhapatnam district, Srikakulam has a great potential for export of marine products. However, due to the backwardness in the region, the people are not able to tap the potential. The people are very poor and require financing. The fishermen require mechanized boats and nets for fishing. Due to poverty, they are not able to purchase these items. They do not have any insurance facility and the Government must provide a group insurance scheme for the welfare of fishermen. A large number of fishermen do not have proper houses and they need to be provided pucca housing through a Centrally sponsored scheme. Similarly, they are given an oil subsidy @ Rs. 6 per litre and this is required to be increased. I, therefore, request the Minister of Agriculture to take necessary steps to provide pucca houses, oil subsidy and finance at subsidized rates for purchase of mechanized boats and fishing nets. The Government should also start a separate Group Insurance Scheme for the fishermen to benefit the fishermen in Srikakulam district. If these steps are taken, it will go a long way in improving the living conditions of fishermen in Srikakulam district.