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Title: Need to take up the issue of re-definition of 'war zone area' in international waters of the Arabian Sea by London based Joint War Committee.

SHRI K. P. DHANAPALAN (CHALAKUDY): Recently in two incidents involving international ships five fishermen were killed and other two were missing near the Kerala Coastal area in the Arabian Sea. There are three baseline points along the Kerala coast at Kochi, Alappuzha, and Vivekanadappara at Kanyakumari. 12 nautical miles from these baseline points are domestic sea area and 200 nautical miles from the baseline points are Indian Economic Zone where the free fishing is allowed. In the last one year, there are no incidents of pirate attacks in this area. This is because of the active presence of the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard. Even then, the London based Joint War Committee has declared the area as "War Zone" and ships will not get insurance converge sailing in the war zone if any attack takes place. Therefore, the ships are moving within the 12 nautical mile area for safe passage. This is causing serious threat to the life of fishermen.

Hence, I request that the Government may kindly intervene in this and pressurize the international agencies to redefine the "War Zone" area so that the ships can navigate at a specified distance from the Indian coastal areas. Government should also take adequate measures to protect the lives of fishermen in the area.