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Title: Need to ensure safety of fishermen in the country.

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (IDUKKI): I request the immediate attention of the Government to take necessary steps to ensure the safety of fishermen in view of repeated incidents of tragedy met by them in Kerala coast. A feeling of insecurity had spread among fishermen following the killing fishermen by firing from Italian ship and another incident of ship collided with a fishing boat. These incidents reveal the need to enhance the coastal security and to improve the functioning of coastal police. Under the changing international scenario, protection of the coastal and territorial waters has become a major challenge for all countries with coastlines. International vessels illegally sweeping the seafloor in India's fishing zone also have severely damaged India's marine ecology and has affected the availability of fish and the future of the marine economy. Taking into consideration all these aspects, steps had to be taken to provide more security in the coastal waters at the earliest. I request to take immediate measures to strengthen the coastal police stations further with adequate vessels and technology.