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Title: Need to review the recommendations of Dr. Meena Kumari Committee constituted for comprehensive review of the deep sea fishing policy.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER (PONNANI): The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHD&F), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India vide their Order No.21001/7/2009-FY(Ind) dated 01 August 2013 constituted an Expert Committee for Comprehensive Review of Deep Fishing.

Now the committee headed by Dr Meena Kumari has submitted its report. The report justifies the exploitation of our marine resources by foreign companies. It allows foreign fishing vessels and foreign crew in Indian waters. The report contradicts the recommendations of P. Murari Committee that opposed issue of licences to foreign fishing vessels. The Murari Committee has recommended that the existing licences of foreign fishing vessels should not be renewed. One of the major recommendations of the committee states that declaring 200-500 meters along the coast as a buffer zone would affect the fishing activities of traditional fishermen, leading to major crisis in traditional and small scale fishing sector.

I, therefore, appeal to the Hon'ble Prime Minister that the recommendations of the Dr. Meena Kumari may not be considered in the interest of fishermen of various States including Kerala.