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Title: Need to allocate funds to Tamil Nadu for providing assistance to fishermen during the period of ban on fishing activities.

SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE (THOOTHUKUDI): In order to facilitate the breeding of fish and to conserve fish stock in the marine ecology, every year the Government of Tamil Nadu imposes 45 day annual ban on fishing by mechanized boats. Fishermen are instructed not to venture out into the sea to avoid disturbances caused by fishing boats during the breeding season. From April 15 to May 29 the ban comes into effect. In order to compensate the loss of livelihood to the fishermen a monthly assistance of Rs. 2000 and 4000 is provided to each of the 16,433 fishermen family and 17,193 beneficiaries. In a systematic manner application for assistance is obtained from the fishermen who need the relief amount. This is directly deposited into the bank account of the fishermen through National Electronic Fund Transfer. 30,265 members enrolled in 25 co-operative societies are receiving the benefits. Since there is no source of income during the ban period, considering the cost of living the centre may come forward to uniformly increase the compensation amount to Rs. 5000 per mensum. Centre may allocate funds through special assistance package as the livelihood of these fishermen are also affected by Sri Lankan Navy every now and then. I also request that this money is paid in the month of May to benefit all the fishermen families.