

## Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding welfare measures for fishermen community of Tamil Nadu -laid.

DR. K. GOPAL (NAGAPATTINAM): India has a total coastline of 7,516.6 Km. There are a total of 4 million fisherman comprising of 8,64,550 families. Presently, India ranks second in the world in total fish production with an annual fish production of about 9.06 million metric tonnes.

The fisheries sector contributes to the national income, exports, food and nutritional security and employment generation As per the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), of the Government of India, the value of GDP from fisheries sector at current prices during 2011-2012 is estimated to be Rs 65,541 crores, which is 4.47 per cent of the total GDP of agriculture and allied sectors.

Each fisherman consumes approximately 1200-1,500 litres of diesel per month with the present subsidy of Rs. 6/litre and they get subsidy only for approximately 300 litres which is not enough. The government is now taking steps to make the fishermen pay full price for the diesel and transfer the price equivalent to the subsidy to their bank accounts.

During the Cyclone Gaja on November of 2018 which crossed through the delta district of Nagapattinam has affected the livelihood of almost all the fishermen in the delta district, 151 motor boats were completely destroyed, 1066 partly-damaged and 1137 vallams (country boats) were completely destroyed and 1434 vallams were partly damaged and fishing nets have also been damaged.

The fishermen community of Delta district of Tamil Nadu are still recovering from the devastating effects of the cyclone and presently they are not in a position to pay full price for the diesel.

And I have also addressed the parliament last month and requested relief funds for the delta district of Tamil Nadu from the National Disaster Management Fund which has not been granted. So, I kindly request them once again to please grant the relief fund for the people of the delta district so that they can at least make a partial if not full recovery. The following measures are urgently required to be taken for the welfare of fishermen community of Tamil Nadu:-

(i) The fishermen 'community of India wants the Government of India to continue giving subsidy on diesel as deduction. while buying the fuel 'and not through Electronic Clearance Service (ECS) and also the government should increase the subsidy for diesel consumed by fishermen to meet the increasing, price of diesel.

(ii) The Government of India should classify the fishermen community as Schedule Tribes.

(iii) The Central Government should also develop the fishing harbor in Nagapattinam, Nagore, Pattinacherry area.

(iv) The Government of India should take steps for establishing a Direct Purchase Center (DPC) for fishes from the fishermen to get a better price in an International Level.

To achieve all this the Government of India should also establish a separate Ministry for fisheries.