

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to create a separate Ministry of Fisheries -laid.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the need to create a separate Ministry for Fisheries, not just the Department announced on Friday. The Indian fisheries and aquaculture sector contribute to nearly 6.3% of global fish production and the livelihood of nearly 4 million are dependent on the sector. Furthermore, the Indian aquaculture sector has great potential for growth as India has a coastline of 7,517 km and extensive river and canal system of roughly 195.210 km. The Indian fisheries sector requires urgent attention and investment, it will help the sector reach its maximum potential. A separate ministry will also help understand and address issues of fishermen across India and allow for their concerns to be heard at a national level. Additionally, the fishing community are economically-socially vulnerable, it requires special attention, especially in times of natural calamities (cyclone, floods etc) that adversely impact the industry and the livelihoods of fishermen.