

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Thursday, December 28, 1989/Pausa 7,
1911 (Saka)*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Assistance to Traditional Fishermen of Kanyakumari District (Tamil Nadu)

*63 SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the traditional fishermen of Kanyakumari District (Tamil Nadu) face great difficulty in carrying fishing operations in Arabian Sea for atleast four months in a year due to rough sea conditions; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to enable the fishermen to carry fishing operations throughout the year without any hindrance?

[*Translation*]

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Inclement weather involving squally winds and high waves is a natural phenomenon in the seas along the coast line

of the Indian Peninsula, particularly during the South-West monsoon (from the mid-May to September) and also during the North-East Monsoon (late October to late November). While the period during which this natural phenomenon occurs varies from place to place along the coast, the sea conditions during these periods are not generally conducive to safe navigation and particularly for fishing by small craft. Both traditional and mechanised fishermen along the coast generally avoid venturing into the sea during such periods.

The Government have taken the following steps in this regard:-

- (i) Provision of advance weather warning through the electronic media.
- (ii) Group accident insurance for active fishermen.
- (iii) Saving-cum-relief scheme for fishermen in order to help them in the lean season (implemented by State Government).
- (iv) Provision of shelter through construction of fishery harbour.
- (v) Installation of guide lights.
- (vi) Motorisation of traditional craft which enables fishermen to navigate speedily.

[*English*]

SHRI N. DENNIS: The fishermen in large numbers live in the southern part of the western coast of our country and they are fully depending on fishing for their livelihood. They are also poverty stricken. Anti-sea erosion walls are erected for the prevention

of sea erosion along the coast touching the sea. The sea here is very rough as it stated in the answer but it is very intense and rough in that locality for a period of about six months in a year. The fishermen cannot go for fishing, they cannot operate their fishing vessels and the utensils used for fishing during the rough season across the anti-erosion walls. On top of this if they dash against the anti-sea erosion walls, it would result in injury as also loss of fishing vessels and utensils. So, generally they are refrained from operating their vessels and going for fishing. That would only aggravate the poverty of these poor fishermen in that locality. Some remedial measures are suggested in the answer but they are of a general nature and they would give only temporary relief to them. I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Deputy Prime Minister that erection of protective walls through a distance of 250 metres into the sea from the sea coast in order to facilitate fishing would help the operation of fishing vessels.

May I know from the hon. Deputy Prime Minister whether such a protective wall with a facility for operation of the fishing vessels could be provided to help these poor fishermen so that they could go for fishing and earn their livelihood?

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVILAL: Rough weather, when squally winds blow, poses lot of problems for the fishermen living along the sea-coast. Provisions of shelters through construction of fishery harbour has been made. Attention of Tamil Nadu Government has been drawn to their problems and suggestions have been sought from them so that we could take some steps in regard to their problems.

[*English*]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: What a question and what a reply! There is no relevance.... (*Interruptions*)....

MR. SPEAKER: He is capable of putting a question and getting an answer

....(*Interruptions*).....

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, you have to protect us... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVI LAL: The Tamil Nadu Government has been asked to give suggestions and the Centre shall provide assistance accordingly.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. DENNIS: It should not entirely be left to the discretion of the Tamil Nadu Government. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, this subject comes under Fisheries and the question has been admitted. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Deputy Prime Minister that the fishermen, due to the difficulties faced by them, are migrating for fishing to other parts of the country such as Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat. The delay in providing facility for the operation of fishing vessels would result in a large-scale migration of these poor fishermen who are residing in that locality. I would like to point out that because of the intensity of rough weather in the locality, sea erosion walls were constructed. Considering the intensity of rough weather in that locality, early provision may be made for providing protective walls for the operation of fishing vessels. In the reply, it is stated that one of the remedies suggested is providing a fishing harbour in such places. That is the long standing demand of the poor fishermen of this locality too. Provision of a fishing harbour in the west coast of Kanyakumari District at the earliest would solve many of the problems of the fishermen. May I know whether the hon. Minister would take early steps for providing a fishing harbour in the west coast of Tamil Nadu, i.e. Arabian sea coast?

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVI LAL: Some fishing harbours are being constructed by the Centre

and some are ready. Some shelters are proposed to be constructed for protection against hot winds. Fishermen cannot go about their business during stormy weather. For this purpose some schemes are being formulated....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, Trivandrum is adjacent to Kanyakumari and there is a long stretch of coastal belt in this area. The same problem prevails in the coastal area of Trivandrum also. Sir, there is a proposal for the construction of sea wall in this belt. Last year another proposal had been made for the construction of a mini fishing harbour from Pozhiyur to Chowara, which is about 15 KMs. Every year at the time of monsoon, lakhs of huts are being washed away and fishing also is not possible. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the mini fishing harbour project from Pozhiyur to Chowara, which is pending before the Government, will be taken up early atleast as a joint project between Kerala Government and the Government of India on 50:50 basis.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVI LAL: The Government is already aware of the necessity to construct fishing harbours. The proposal is under consideration with the Department of Water Resources of the Government of Tamil Nadu. We have asked them to give suggestions and then we shall consider the matter...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is Question Hour. Please take your seats.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called upon Mr. Deshmukh.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT: I am on a point of order...

MR. SPEAKER: No point of order during Question Hour. I will allow you to put a question.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: The Member wants answer to his question. There is nothing wrong in that....

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister wants to reply. You are not allowing him to reply.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing him to proceed.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVI LAL: I am giving reply to your question but you are not prepared to listen....(*Interruptions*)I have already said that approval has been given for two fishing harbours in Kanyakumari and Trivandrum districts. You want to raise this matter again. You have made the Deputy Prime Minister the target of your attack.

SHRI ANANTRAO VITHALRAO DESHMUKH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the four months of stormy weather, the poor fishermen cannot venture to the sea for fishing. Will the Centre appoint a study group to chalk out a plan of action for these four months of inclement weather?

SHRI DEVI LAL: Assistance is given when cyclonic storms hit the coasts during four months every year. 50 per cent of the assistance is given by the Centre and the rest 50 per cent is borne by the State so that fishermen are able to tide over the difficult period.