

[Sh. Gopinath Gajapathi]

Government of India, I urge the Government to create a Maritime Border Protection Force expeditiously, preferably under the control of the Central Government.

**(viii) Need to declare Rabindranath Tagore as National Poet and preserve his literary and artistic works**

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, Article 49 of our Constitution enjoins on the State to protect every monument or place or object of artistic or historic interest (declared by or under law made by Parliament) to be of national importance, from spoliation, disfigurement, destruction etc.

But in spite of this, the literary and artistic works of Rabindranath Tagore are facing the risk of suffering distortion at the hands of unscrupulous commercial interests, after the expiry of 50 years from the demise of the world-poet when the copy right provisions cease to be applicable in this particular case w.e.f. 31st December, 1991.

In the House of Parliament on May 9, 1961 while paying homage and tribute to the memory of Rabindra Nath Tagore on the occasion of his birth centenary, he had been described as "a great personality who put India on the cultural map of the world."

Serious concern has already been expressed from several quarters regarding the possibility of commercial abuse and resultant distortion of the literary and artistic works of the versatile genius after the expiry of 50 years from his death. Some well-known organisations of writers and artists as also some eminent Tagore-lovers have demanded that Rabindra Nath Tagore be declared as National Poet by an Act of Parliament and urgent steps be taken accordingly to protect the invaluable artistic and literary creations before the expiry of 50 years from his death.

I urge upon the Government to respond

to the very justified demand for declaration of Rabindra National Poet.

13.04 hrs.

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),  
1991-92**

**Ministries of Agriculture, Food and  
Rural Development-Contd.**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up further discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministries of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

I now call Shri E. Ahamed to continue his talk on Agriculture.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Yesterday I was dealing with the possibilities of developing the fisheries industry in the country for which the Ministry of Agriculture has to take some immediate steps to activate the process of the industry. What I said yesterday was that India has got 29,000 Kms. of river system and 7.53 lakh hectares of potential fresh water ponds and tanks to produce fish. India has also got the potential to produce 4.5 million tonnes of fish every year. But in spite of all these facilities, the encouragement or incentives provided by the Government of India is very much inadequate. The State-wise analysis of the fish production during 1988-89 shows that West Bengal produces 5.14 lakh tonnes of fish followed by Maharashtra 3.84 lakh tonnes, Gujarat-3.81 lakh tonnes, Tamil Nadu 3.68 lakh tonnes and Kerala 3.65 lakh tonnes. These five States have been earning a very large portion of foreign exchange to this country through the promotion of marine products by exports. India has become the Seventh in the world whereas Japan comes at the top as the country producing the maximum quantity of fish. But Japan is utilising the modern techniques in fishing which India has not ac-