

Need to ensure safety of fishermen on Kerala coast

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL (Kerala) : Sir, following the murderous attack by the Italian ship 'Enrica Lexie', the incident on March 1st, 2012 in which an oil tanker rammed into a fishing boat close to the Kerala coast killing five men, has spread panic and outrage among fisher folk on the Western Coast. The fact that criminal ship could just sped away, despite the presence of a formidable Southern Naval Command and a fleet of coast guard in Kochi, has raised serious security concerns. Similar incidents had happened in the past too. Reports indicate that at least 15 fishermen had died in recent years. But, except in few cases, the culprits were not identified and arrested. In many of the cases, the affected fishermen families were not given compensation.

The fisher folk in the coast of Kerala are suffering from a serious fear. Kerala coast is a busy route of international ships, and, at any given point of time, more than 40 ships are sailing in coastal waters. It is estimated that, at least, 1500 ships travel per day through this route. This shows the dangerous situation of the fisher folk working there. The Government have to ensure the safety of fishermen by giving strict directions through maritime agencies to the ships about the safety measures to be followed. And adequate steps should also be taken to pay compensation to the affected fishermen and their families. Thank you.

Need to accord in-principle approval to Sri Ram Sagar Project

SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, the Government of Andhra Pradesh proposes to take up P.V. Narasimha Rao Kanthanapally Sujala Sravanthi Project on Godavari River by constructing a barrage at Kanthanapally in Warangal District. The objective behind taking up of this Project is to establish 7.5 lakh acres of Sri Ram Sagar Project-I & II, Ayacut, which is facing a shortage of water. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has given administrative approval in February, 2009, for Rs. 10,409 crore for lifting 50 TMC of water and cropping into existing SRSP Canal for stabilization of 7.5 lakh acres of SRSP, Ayacut.

The preliminary Project Report was submitted to the Central Water Commission in November, 2009, for obtaining clearance. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has given replies relating to hydrology and inter-State irrigation to the Planning Directorate of CWC. The hydrological data submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh is sufficient for approving the DPR in principle. Therefore, keeping in view the upstream Sripada Sagar and downstream Dummugudem Projects, which are cleared by the Hydrology Directorate of CWC, Kanthanapally Project may also be considered for giving in-principle clearance so that the Government of Andhra Pradesh could go forward for submitting a detailed DPR for approval.