

evaluating it. These classifications and zoning will be done according to the requirements. We are trying to work out a model through the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology in Cochin, a model of an intermediate boat of around 15 metre length, which can fish in this intermediate zone and catch fish.

Dr. Gopalrao Vithalrao Patil had also brought in these points. But I think I have covered all of these. He talked about the disease in aquaculture farms. Yes, there was an incidence and it has now been tackled. Regarding establishment of universities and research centres, there is a proposal. We are working out a joint proposal with FAO to set up an institute and there are certain other proposals also. In Lucknow we are having one for conserving the genetic material of fish. It will be one of the largest gene banks in the world to conserve the fish genetic material. So far as the involvement of various Ministries, their overlapping and functioning at cross purposes is concerned, there is no such situation now. Since 1997, the Department of Deep Sea Fishing has been transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture. Now, the Ministry of Food Processing is not involved in it. So far as APEDA or MPEDA are concerned, they are for exports and deep sea fishing. The Agriculture Ministry is in full charge and we are in the full knowledge of all the phenomena and dimensions of the problem. With this perspective I think we are likely to work out a policy which has been in a shambles since the rescinding of the earlier policy. There is an urgent need to come out with a policy, particularly in view of the potent threat which is being posed by Pakistan's agreement with the American company. We have got to think about that because around one million catch, which we are not tapping, is a big loss to the nation and then there are also security and other complications.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: But you are not being proactive. You are reactive.

SHRI SOM PAL: I am saying I am being proactive. Earlier all of you wanted a ban. So, I am being proactive. Rather, you have been reactive that there should be a ban. It is the other way round.

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

The Interest on Delayed Payments to Small Scale and Ancillary Industrial Undertakings Amendment Bill, 1998

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Interest on Delayed Payments to Small Scale and Ancillary Industrial Undertakings (Amendment) Bill, 1998, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th July, 1998."

Sir, I lay the bill on the Table.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

ON Points Arising out of Answer to Starred Question No. 422 given on 16th July, 1998, RE. Growth of Fisheries Wealth (Contd.)

SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, first of all I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the problems of fishermen and also fisheries development. I wish to say a few words about the miserable conditions in which they live. The fishermen live in hutments, under thatched roof on the seashore. When heavy rains and storm lash the coastal areas, the thatched huts of the fishermen are damaged and washed away. Then they stand aghast and hapless without a roof over their heads. Having realised the pathetic plight of these fishermen, Dr. M.G.R., the political mentor of our

leader and Goddess of our hearts, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi observed:

The translation goes thus:

*He created us on earth
Made us live on the sea;
Our house is the Ocean
And the Moon our light;
Our life may go on,
Or end abruptly
This is our fate, our life.

This is how our leader expressed the kind of life fishermen lead.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): What is your Question? You have to put your question.

SHRI S. NIRAİKULATHAN: I am coming to that. But I feel it my duty to speak about their problems.

Sir, because of the conditions they live in, the Government is duty bound to mitigate their problems. When our leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, a law was enacted to regulate prawn culture for the first time in India. Later, the Union Government also brought a legislation on those lines with some changes and that has been passed by the Rajya Sabha. I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to get it passed in Lok Sabha as well.

Sir, prawn culture has been going on along the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu for years. But the Tamil Nadu police are troubling the fishermen. In Nagapattinam area of Tamil Nadu, fabricated cases have been booked by the police on 50 fishermen, and the police people are chasing them even now. I demand protection for these innocent fishermen.

Fishermen of Tamil Nadu are unable to venture into the sea for fishing because of the atrocities of Srilankan Navy. With a sense of paralysing calamity I say that, — our fishermen are being killed regularly by the Srilankan Navy. Our appeals to protect them have fallen on deaf ears.

*English translation of the speech delivered in Tamil.

Now, Red Sea is not the one near Egypt. Red sea could be seen across Palk Strait in Bay of Bengal, because the sea has turned red there due to the blood flowing out of the bodies of our fishermen fired upon and killed by the Srilankan Navy. I make a forceful demand through this House to protect the lives of our fishermen.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, fishing should be modernised to increase the catch and to provide useful information to fishermen. Fishermen should be provided diesel at subsidised rate for the use in their motorised fishing boats. Government should provide processing and cold storage facilities to fishermen enabling them to preserve and sell their catch at competitive rates. They live in such misery that most often they starve without food and water. I would appreciate if the Government comes forward to give them loan and subsidy for buying fishing boats. Government should also construct berths on the shore for safe keep of the boats. Fishermen should be provided all the basic amenities like, drinking water, education, free health, dwelling units and connecting roads. I also appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to construct light houses after every 10 kms. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will consider my demands favourably. Thank you.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, we are talking about growth of fisheries wealth. Many of my friends have raised some contentious issues. I happened to be a member of the Murari Committee which gave this ruling. The Report of this Committee was submitted in November 1995. In December 1995, I happened to be at the United Nations where our country was a party to the signing of the laws of the seas. This is an international agreement. Sir, we are getting globalised. This law states that fisheries wealth does not belong to a particular country, and, it belongs to everybody internationally. That is why the hon. Minister mentioned about Forbes & Company which is an

American company. Sir, Pakistan has signed an agreement with this company. When we are getting globalised, when we are liberalising our economy, we have to rethink about it. If a small country like Pakistan has signed an agreement, I do not think they are going to violate any international laws. So, we have to reconsider all that we have done in the past. Sir, in the coastal areas, including my State of Goa, they have the breeding season. There are disputes among the States because there is a ban imposed in Kerala and Maharashtra and the trawlers come to other areas like Karnataka and Goa. So, this is the problem which leads to inter-State rivalry. Sir, this is an area where the Central Government can come into play. I think the Central Government should be an arbitrator to see that all these States are brought together and an agreement is signed among all of them. I think here the moderator should be the Central Government. I do not think they can shirk their responsibility. They cannot run away from their responsibility because the international boundaries up to 12 nautical miles are within the jurisdiction of the Central Government. The States do not have much say in this regard. Sir, we talk of aquaculture. We know that tenancy laws are in force so that the agricultural tenants are protected. But, this law is being used to subvert the tenancy and evict the tenants. I think the hon. Minister is giving attention to me. The landlords are breaching the bunds and permitting the sea water to come in the green paddy fields in order to evict the agricultural tenants because the ownership lies with the landlords. I would like to know whether an aquaculture authority will be created so that the problems that I have raised are brought under its jurisdiction. I would also like to know whether this authority will be a quasi-judicial one so that aggrieved people can approach it for redressal of their grievances. Sir, we know that the hon. Minister has stated that we have an EEZ. Sir, this should be

protected because we have signed an agreement in the United Nations. In addition to 12 nautical miles, we have a continental shelf. This is so in the Bay of Bengal where the catch of fish is very, very ample. We have seen big fishing ships coming even from Singapore. These ships come in the vicinity of India. I would like to know whether the Government will approach the United Nations to see to it that we have exclusive fishing rights in this area because it is our economic zone in the Bay of Bengal. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will take an initiative to see that the Government ventures in this fields. Sir, the hon. Minister has spoken about dissemination of information to the fishing trawlers and boats. You have satellites. But, there is no communication link from land with trawlers in the sea. Sir, when the Murari Committee went on a tour to the western coastal area, I also happened to go with this Committee to that area. The main problem which the fishermen told us was that whatever information is given on land that cannot be disseminated to people in the sea. I would like to know whether the Government will start a proper communication system or a radio system with a relevant frequency band exclusively for the fishermen... so that they need not go for expensive wireless and other systems and on plain radio they can pick up signals. I wanted to know whether this will be done by the Government because that is not happening. Sir, whatever information is there with the Government department concerned, it is only shared with those multinational houses who have their boats in the deep-seas. I wanted to know from the hon. Minister whether this information will be given to the poorest of the poor fishermen. I wanted to know whether this will be made available to them, and that is possible if you have a small transistor or radio. I also wanted to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry will make investment to have a

special radio band exclusively for the fishermen and in the vernacular language. If it is in Maharashtra, it should be in Marathi or if it is in Gujarat, it should be in Gujarati, and likewise. I wanted to know whether that assurance will be given by the hon. Minister because, at the moment, this information is cornered by certain multinational industrial houses who have ventures in the deep-sea fishing. I want a response from the hon. Minister on this., Sir, I am not against the report given by the Murari Committee which protects the interests of the traditional fishermen up to 10 or 12 nautical miles. I wanted to know from the hon. Minister whether he will open our seas for international fishing. Otherwise, I think, we are going to be the losers. We have almost 200 miles of E.E.Z., but we do not have the equipment and we do not have the machinery to go and mine in that area. So, I wanted to know whether the Government will stick to the given policy. We were a very few Members of Parliament there, and it was basically dominated by the fishermen community who had their own interest. The hon. Minister may let us know whether the Government will review this policy. Beyond a limit, the traditional fishermen cannot fish. I wanted to know whether the Government will throw it open for the international fishing trade. Thank you.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम (पश्चिम बंगाल): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मंत्री जी ने जो जवाब दिया हाफ-एन-आवर डिसक्शन का, मैं उसी के ऊपर कुछ सवालता पूछूंगा। एक तो यह है कि मोरारी कमेटी के रिपोर्ट के बारे में उन्होंने कहा कि डिमार्केशन का जो मामला है, कोस्टल एरिया में डेपथ और डिस्टेंस के बारे में कुछ एनोमलीज़ हैं। मुझे नहीं लगता है कि कन्फ्यूजन है या कंफ़्रडिक्टरी है। उन्होंने कहा कि कंफ़्रडिक्टरी है। दर असल समुद्र के कोस्टल एरिया में वेस्टर्न कोस्ट में और ईस्टर्न कोस्ट में आप एक ही इन्फ़ोर्मेशन इस्तेमाल नहीं कर सकते हैं क्योंकि ईस्टर्न कोस्ट में डेथ एक किस्म की है और वेस्टर्न कोस्ट में दूसरे किस्म की है। इसलिए डेपथ और डिस्टेंस को

जुडिशियसली देखना पड़ेगा कि कहाँ क्या एप्रोप्रियेट है, मिनिक्च है। इस तरह से रिक्मेंडेशन में है। मैं समझता हूँ रिपोर्ट को आप ठीक से देख लें। आपको ऐसा नहीं बोलना चाहिये कि जो रिपोर्ट प्लेस हुई है, उसमें कंफ़्रडिक्टरी रिक्मेंडेशंस हैं। इसलिए मैं भी सफ़ाई दे दूँ, मैं खुद भी मैम्बर था इस एक्सपर्ट कमेटी आन डीप सी फिशिंग में though I am not an expert.

SHRI SOMPAL: I have the recommendations with me.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: सेकेंडली, रिक्मेंडेशन है, बहुत सी बातें हैं लेकिन मुझे अफसोस हो रहा है कि हकूमत तो बदलती रहती है लेकिन नज़रिया नहीं बदलता है। एम नायक जी आज मंत्री हैं, वे भी उसमें मैम्बर थे। हम लोगों ने ट्रेडिशनल फिशरमैन के लिए फाइट किया था। 1995 में जो सरकार के मंत्री कह रहे थे आज के मंत्री भी वही कह रहे हैं, इंप्लीकेशंस हैं, परसेटिज है, यह है, वह है। यह सब बहाना है, मैं साफ साफ कह रहा हूँ। लिमिटेशन है। एक बात मंत्री जी ने कहा कि जो ज्वाइंट वेंचर डीप सी फिशिंग के थे और जो फॉरेन वेस्सल चल रहे थे, उनको फेज़ आऊट करना था। अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि बहुत कम हैं, 19-19 हैं। लेकिन मैं पूछता हूँ कि रिक्मेंडेशंस में यह कहा गया था कि कैसे फेज़ आऊट होंगे और तारीख क्या थी, मंत्री महोदय कब तक करेंगे। यह तमाम जो फॉरेन वेस्सल है, ज्वाइंट वेंचर हैं, तारीख दी हुई थी सरकार ने कि फेज़ आऊट करेंगे। मैं यह बात इसलिए कह रहा हूँ क्योंकि आज मंत्री जी ने कहा उससे हमें डर और अंदेशा लग रहा है कि किसी न किसी बहाने से यह मामला रह जाएगा और रिक्मेंडेशन लागू नहीं होगी। इसलिए डेट आप बताएं कि सरकार क्या करने जा रही है, उस तारीख के मुताबिक आप फेज़ आऊट करेंगे या नहीं, इसका कटेगरीकली आंसर होना चाहिये। दूसरा सवाल यह है कि मंत्री महोदय ने एक बात और कही। हमारे दूसरे साथी इसको प्रोएक्टिव और रियेक्टिव के मामले में ले गए कि पाकिस्तान मल्टीनेशनल कम्पनीज़ को ले कर आता है, फिशिंग करता है। हमें भी कुछ नये तरीके से नज़रेसानी करना पड़ेगा, यह मंत्री जी कहेंगे कि क्या करना है, सरकार क्या फैसला लेगी? लेकिन यही तो है कि हमारी रिट्रो-एक्टिव या रिएक्टिव नेचर होती है। कौन क्या कर रहा है इसे प्रो-एक्टिव भी कहते हैं। लेकिन मैं उसमें भी नहीं जा रहा हूँ—रिएक्टिव या प्रो-एक्टिव में। मैं कह रहा हूँ कि इस सवाल पर उन्होंने एक केंद्रित बात कही है। एक तो—“Our own vessels should be

there for surveillance.” जो काम नेवी का है, जो काम कोस्टल गार्ड का है, जो काम हमारी डिफेंस मिनिस्ट्री का है वह काम अगर हम वेसिल्स को दे देते हैं—मैं बाद में आऊंगा वेसिल्स के टाइप पर—वह तो ठीक है, मैं यह मानता हूँ कि बेनीफिट आफ डाऊड देकर कि हमारे वेसिल्स अगर वहां रहेंगे तो उनसे कम से कम रिपोर्ट मिल सकेगी कि पोथिंग के लिए दूसरे लोग आ रहे हैं या इसलिए नहीं आ रहे हैं, लेकिन इस काम की जिम्मेदारी जो फिशिंग टालर्स है या जो फिशिंग वेसिल्स हैं उनके हाथ में नहीं छोड़नी चाहिए। इसके साथ हमारी डिफेंस, हमारी सिक््योरिटी और दूसरे बहुत-से मामले जुड़े हुए हैं।

दूसरी बात यह है कि वह जिन्हें ओड वेसिल्स कह रहे हैं

—क्योंकि मोरारी कमेटी में यह बहस हो चुकी है कि जो फारेन वेसिल्स हैं, ज्वाइंट वेंचर्स में जो हैं, लीज वेसिल्स जो हैं और जो इंडियन वेसिल्स हैं, इंडियन ओड वेसिल्स हैं, इंडियन मैनुफैक्चर्ड वेसिल्स हैं उनमें आपका कानून फर्क नहीं करता है। जब फर्क नहीं करता है तो आप—मंत्री जी—सदन में यह कह रहे हैं कि देयर शुड बी अवर ओन वेसिल्स—डीप सी में, ईन्फ्रेंजेड में ताकि फारेन वेसिल्स कोई न आएँ, पोथिंग न हो। सिक््योरिटी का मामला है। तो यह ओड वेसिल्स की डिफिनीशन क्या है—इंडियन ओड, ओड बाई इंडियन कंपनीज और फारेन वेसिल्स—लीज में ले करके हमारे देश की कोई कंपनी ला रही है या फारेन वेसिल्स मल्टी नेशनल कंपनी जिसको हम लाइसेंस देंगे? यह बात नहीं होनी चाहिए। तो फिर वह और भी डैजरेस हो जाएगा, सर्विलेंस का काम अगर हम फारेन कंपनीज पर छोड़ देंगे। वे सर्विलेंस करेंगे डीप सी में हमारे इंटरस्ट्स के लिए यह कभी नहीं को सकता।

तीसरा सवाल है। आज भी अंडमान-निकोबार में और हमारे दूसरे जो ईन्फ्रेंजेड धरियाज हैं वहाँ थाई, सिंगापुर और दूसरे, यहाँ तक कि बंगलादेश, ईस्टर्न इलाके में और वेस्टर्न इलाके में दूसरे लोग आ करके पोथिंग करते हैं। हमारे पास अपरेटस नहीं है, एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री के पास। दिक्कत यह है। मैं उनको दोष नहीं देता। एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री तो नोडल मिनिस्ट्री है चूँकि पहले मछली पकड़ी जाती थी सिर्फ इनलैंड में, तालाब में, नदियों में, इसलिए यह एग्रीकल्चर का मामला हो गया। लेकिन अब जब डीप सी का मामला है, ईन्फ्रेंजेड है तो एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री को दोष देने से कोई फायदा नहीं है। वह इनकी ताकत के बाहर है कि डीप सी में क्या हो रहा है या क्या नहीं हो रहा है। तो पोथिंग

को रोकने का काम कोस्टल गार्ड्स का है। उसको और भी स्ट्रेथन करना है। यहाँ तक कि जो एकदम टेरीटोरियल वाटर्स है वहाँ पर जो स्टेट पुलिस है उसको भी स्ट्रेथन करने की जरूरत है। तो मेरा मशवरा है कि जो 9 कोस्टल स्टेट्स हैं उनके जो प्रोपोजल्स हैं टु स्ट्रेथन देयर ओन अपरेटस, उनके पास जीप्स हैं लेकिन स्पीड बोट्स नहीं हैं—जो ऐसे बहुत से आपके पास रिक्मेंडेशंस आए हैं, सजेशंस आए हैं तो उनके स्ट्रेथन करने के लिए, सर्विलेंस को और भी स्ट्रेथन करने के लिए, पोथिंग को रोकने के लिए, बाकी के तमाम मामलों में आप हो या होम मिनिस्ट्री हो या डिफेंस मिनिस्ट्री हो, किस तरह से उनको स्ट्रेथन करेंगे यह हमें जरा बताएँ।

चौथा मेरा सवाल ट्रेडीशनल फिशरमेन के बारे में है। मंत्री जी का उस रोज का जवाब, जिस सवाल से यह हाफ एन आवर डिसकशन आया और आज का जवाब यह तसल्लीबख्श नहीं है और कंफ्यूजिबल है। उनका कहना है कि डीप सी में जो फारेन ओड वेसिल्स हैं, लीज वेसिल्स हैं या लाइसेंस वेसिल्स हैं, ओनली वन परसेंट आफ द कैच जो है वे फारेन वाले कर रहे हैं। मंत्री जी ने उस रोज के जवाब में यह कहा कि हमारा जो टोटल, कैच बढ़ा है इसके लिए ये जो लीज और लाइसेंस वेसिल्स हैं इनका एक अनुदान है, एक रेल है। फिर आज वे कह रहे हैं और उस रोज भी कहा कि—there should be our own vessels.

जब डीप सी फिशिंग पालिसी लायी गयी थी, लाइसेंस जब आप लाए थे, लीज जब दी थी, फारेन वेसिल्स जब हमारे मुल्क में आए तो अरर्यूमेंट आपको यही थी कि हमारा जो फिशिंग कैच है, जो टोटल पोर्टेशियल है वह चूँकि एक्सप्लाइड नहीं हो रही है इसलिए उसे एक्सप्लाइड करने के लिए हम दूसरों को और बुलाएँगे। आज 5—7 साल बाद यह कह रहे हैं कि ओनली वन परसेंट आफ द कैच उसके लिए है। तो इसका मतलब है कि टोटल गलत। आपको मानना पड़ेगा फिर ह्राउस में। आंकड़े, प्रोजेक्टेड फिगरर्स किस तरह से हैं। आपका जो सर्वे है, गनर्वमेंट आफ इंडिया का सर्वे, चूँकि फारेनर्स को बुलाना है, मल्टी-नेशनल्स को बुलाना है, इसलिए प्रोजेक्टेड फिगरर्स दिखाएँ। ये। मेरा सवाल यह होगा कि आपने उस वक़्त प्रोजेक्टेड फिगरर्स क्या दिखाए थे कि टोटल फिशिंग कैच कितनी है हमारे मुल्क में और उसके अंदर कितना एक्सप्लाइड हो रहा है? आज 1998 में आप क्या कह रहे हैं कि इतनी फिशरीज कैच डीप सी में है और उसका इतना परसेंट कामर्शियली एक्सप्लाइड हो रहा है।

थर्ड क्वेश्चन है कि क्या सेगमेंट वाइज ट्रेडीशनल...

श्री सोमपाल: फोर्थ के बाद थर्ड कैसे आता है। पहले आपने कहा था फोर्थ।

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: यह थर्ड का एबी,सी,डी है। यह तो एक ही सवाल है। आप इसका ही जवाब दीजिए।

श्री सोमपाल: नहीं, आप इसको किफ्थ कह दीजिए।

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: ठीक है, यह प्वायंट जो फारेन वैसल वाला मामला है वह तो मैं फिर मूल प्वायंट पर आऊंगा ही। चौथा यह है कि सेगमेंटवाइज ट्रेडीशनल बोट, मैकेनाइज्ड बोट, आपने कहा है अभी मोटराइज्ड, सेमी मोटराइज्ड जो अभी हुआ है वह और उसके साथ ज्वाइंट वेंचर्स और बिग कंपनीज हैं, मल्टी नेशनलज हैं उनका सेगमेंटवाइज कैच कितना है, तो हमारे पास मामला क्लोयर हो जाएगा कि हम जो पालिसी बना रहे हैं वह किसके हित में बना रहे हैं। अब फिर मूल सवाल पर आइये, मेरा पांचवां सवाल यह है कि आपकी यह जो सबसिडी स्कीम्ज हैं दिक्कत यह है कि एकस्पॉर्ट बढ़ाने के लिए हम सबसिडी दे रहे हैं, अभी जॉन एफ० फर्नांडिस ने भी कहा, बहुत सा जो डाटा उनको देना है, उनको सबसिडी देना है और भी फैसिलिटीज देना है, क्योंकि हमें एकस्पॉर्ट बढ़ाना है, यही तो हमारा मकसद था और कितना कंटीब्यूट हो रहा है उन लोगों से, जो आपके इन तमात स्कीम्ज से फैसिलिटीज ले रहे हैं। क्योंकि हमारी आशंका यह है आपने तो कह दिया सैटेलाइट सिस्टम है इन्फर्मेशन सिस्टम हम उसे लागू करेंगे लेकिन फायदा किसको मिलेगा, जो हमारे फिशरमैन हैं उनको नहीं मिलेगा, क्योंकि लॉजिस्टिक प्रब्लम है। मैं उनका यह मामला तो रिपीट नहीं करता हूँ। यह रेडियो वाला जो सजेशन है यह बड़ा अच्छा है। इन्फर्मेशन भी मिले और लो कास्ट हो। नहीं तो आप बोलेंगे कंप्यूटराइज्ड सैटेलाइट तो वह सब फिर बड़ी कंपनीज ले लेंगी। आप जो 19 ट्रॉलर्स की बात कर रहे हैं, सिक्स्थ क्वथन यह है कि 19 ट्रॉलर्स की जो बात कर रहे हैं दो कैटेगरीज में 19-19, owned by which company, who are the collaborators, who are the promoters?

उससे यह पता चल जाएगा कि क्यों हम इसे बैन नहीं कर सकते। लाखों ट्रेडीशनल फिशरमैन इफैक्टिव हो रहे हैं। अजीब बात है। मैं कोस्टल स्टेट से आता हूँ, केरल एक कोस्टल स्टेट है, गोआ एक कोस्टल स्टेट है। जब ये स्कीम्ज बनीं तो आपकी सरकार नहीं थी। आप भी उस समय हमारे बाजू में थे और तब देखा जाएगा बिग

पोलिटीशियंस, द फोर्मेर चीफ्स ऑफ कोस्टल गार्ड्स, बिग आफिसर्स, ब्यूरोक्रेट्स और मल्टी नेशनल को ही कोलैबोरेशंस आप बोल रहे हैं। दरअसल यह कोलैबोरेशन भी नहीं है, Indian anchor sitting in Delhi, sitting in Bangalore...(Interruptions)... I do not want to blame the serving people, but still if you say so...

तो मैं इसलिए फोर्मर बोल रहा हूँ, ये लोग और फॉरेन कंपनीज हमारे ट्रेडीशनल फिशरमैन को फिशिंग करने का हक नहीं मिल रहा है। मछली मारी जा रही है। उसके बारे में नहीं है और सरकार की स्कीम यह है कि मल्टी नेशनल कंपनीज, उसको पार्टनरशिप नहीं बोला जाता है, एक इंडियन एंकर वूडकर निकाले हैं, जिनका हाई कनैक्शंस है और उसके बाद फिशिंग कर रहे हैं उसके बाद आप यह कह रहे हैं कि हम इसे बैन नहीं करेंगे। इसलिए यह जो नैक्सस है इसे तोड़ना पड़ेगा। सरकार बदलती है लेकिन नैक्सेस वैसे ही रह जाता है।

सातवां सवाल, आपका यह जो मॉनिटरिंग का मामला है कोटल गाइड्स का मामला, तो दिक्कत यह होती है कि जब यह प्रब्लम होती है ट्रेडीशनल फिशरमैन मैकेनाइज्ड बोट सेमी मैकेनाइज्ड बोट और बड़े-बड़े तो हमारे देश की जो स्थिति है कि इनके क्योंकि हाई कनैक्शंस है वे छोटे वाले एग्रीव्ड हैं। वे एजीटेटेड क्यों हो रहे हैं इसलिए हो रहे हैं कि जब उसे नहीं मिलता है तो बगावत करते हैं, लड़ने की कोशिश करते हैं। तो नेचुरली जो सरकारी प्रशासन है उसके जो मदद है वह नीचे वाले लोगों के पास नहीं पहुँचती और लागू करने वाले वही लोग हैं। इसलिए आपकी यह मॉनिटरिंग और सर्विलेस सिस्टम में इंटरफीयरेंस क्या होगी, जो एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री है वह इस बारे में आप जरा अपने नज़रिए को बतायेंगे?

मैं अपनी बात को ज्यादा लंबी न करके आपसे यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि मोरारी कमेटी को रिपोर्ट के बारे में इस सरकार का क्या नज़रिया है? आप उसे इन टोटो लागू करना चाहते हैं या नहीं, यह आप सदन को बताएं?

الاشترى محمد سليم "مخلو بنالان" : آب
سبعا ادعیکش حی، منفتری جوئے جو جواب

. [Transliteration in Arabic Script]

دیا "ہاف این آؤڈ ڈسکشن" کا۔ میں اسی کے اوپر کچھ سوال پوچھوں گا، ایک تو یہ ہے کہ مراری کھیتی کے بارے میں انھوں نے کہا کہ ڈیمارکیشن کا جو معاملہ ہے کو مسئلہ ایبریا میں، ٹی بیٹھ اور ڈسکشن کے بارے میں کچھ انا ملین ہیں، مجھے نہیں لگتا ہے کہ کنفیوژن ہے یا کنٹرول کر رہے ہیں۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ کنٹرول کٹری ہے۔ دراصل سمندر کے کو مسئلہ ایبریا میں ویسٹرن کوسٹ میں اور ایسٹرن کوسٹ میں آپ ایک ہی کنٹریبیوٹر یا استعمال نہیں کر سکتے ہیں کیونکہ ایسٹرن کورٹ میں ٹی بیٹھ ایک قسم کی ہے اور ویسٹرن کوسٹ میں دوسرے قسم کی ہے۔

ایسٹرن ٹی بیٹھ اور ڈسکشن کو جو مسئلہ دیکھنا پڑے گا کہ کہاں کیا ایبریا ایٹ ہے، منی م ہے۔ اس طرح سے ڈیمارکیشن میں ہے۔ میں سمجھتا ہوں رپورٹ کو آپ حقیقت سے دیکھ لیں۔ آپ کو ایسا نہیں ہونا چاہیے کہ جو رپورٹ پالیس ہوئی ہے اس میں کنٹرول کٹری ڈیمارکیشن ہے۔

ایسٹرن میں بھی صفائی دے دوں، میں خود بھی سمجھتا ہوں اس ایکسپٹ کیٹی آن ٹی بیٹھ سی فٹنگ میں ہے]

though I am not an expert.

SHRI SOMPAL: I have the recommendations with me.

آٹھری محمد سلیم: میکڈونلڈ، ریگمنڈ ہنٹ ہیں، بہت سی باتیں ہیں لیکن مجھے افسوس ہو رہا ہے کہ حکومت تو بولتی رہتی ہے لیکن انہیں ہنٹ برٹن ہے۔ رام ناٹک جی آج منتری ہیں وہ بھی اس میں سمجھتے ہیں، ہم لوگوں نے ٹی بیٹھ فیشنر میں کئے فائنٹ کیا تھا۔ ۱۹۹۵ میں جانکر مسئلہ کے منتری کہہ رہے تھے آج کے منتری بھی وہی کہہ رہے ہیں، ایملی کیشنس ہیں، پریسٹیج ہیں، یہ ہے وہ ہے، یہ سب بہانا ہے، میں صاف صاف کہہ رہا ہوں، کیشنس ہیں، ایک بات منتری جو نے کہا کہ جو فائنٹ جو پریسٹیج سی فٹنگ اور جو فارن ویسل چل رہے تھے ان کو فیز آؤٹ کرنا تھا۔ اب منتری یہ کہہ رہے ہیں کہ بہت کم ہے، ۱۹-۱۰ ہیں، لیکن میں پوچھتا ہوں کہ ریگمنڈ کیشنس میں یہ کہا گیا تھا کہ کیسے فیز آؤٹ ہو گئے اور تاویخ کیا تھی، منتری یہ کہہ رہے ہیں کہ، یہ تمام جو فارن ویسل ہیں، جو فائنٹ وینچر ہیں، تاویخ دی ہوئی تھی سرکار نے کہ فیز آؤٹ کر لیا گئے، میں یہ بات اس لئے کہہ رہا ہوں کیونکہ آج منتری جو نے کہا اس سے پہلے میں اور اندیشہ لگ رہا ہے کہ کسی نہ کسی پرانے سے یہ معاملہ نہ جائیگا

ہیں۔۔۔ میں جوں میں آؤنگا ویسلس کے
 ہائیپ بر۔۔۔ وہ تو ٹھیک ہے میں یہ
 مانتا ہوں، بینی فٹ آف ٹکٹس دیکر
 کہ ہمارے ویسلس انگریزوں میں سے تو
 ان سے کم سے کم رپورٹ مل سکے گی کہ چونک
 کے لئے دوسرے لوگ آ رہے ہیں یا اسلئے
 نہیں آ رہے ہیں، لیکن اس کام کی ذمہ داری
 جو فٹنگ ٹرانسپورٹس ہیں یا جو فٹنگ ویسلس
 ہیں ان کے ساتھ میں نہیں چھوڑنا چاہیے۔ اس کے
 ساتھ بھاری سیکیورٹی اور دوسرے بہت سے
 معاملے جڑے ہوئے ہیں۔

دوسری بات یہ ہے کہ وہ جنہیں اونٹ ویسلس
 کہہ رہے ہیں، کیونکہ مرادی کھیٹی میں یہ بحث
 ہو چکی ہے کہ جو فارن ویسلس ہیں جو انٹ
 وینچرس میں جو ہیں، اینڈ ویسلس
 جو ہیں اور جو انٹرنیشنل ویسلس ہیں،
 انڈین مینوفیکچر ویسلس ہیں، انہیں
 آپ کا قانون فرق نہیں کرتا ہے۔ جب فرق
 نہیں کرتا ہے تو آپ۔۔۔ منتری جی۔۔۔ سمجھنا
 میں یہ کہہ رہے ہیں کہ ڈیٹرمنٹڈ اور آن
 ویسلس۔۔۔ ٹکسی۔۔۔ پی۔۔۔ سی۔۔۔ میں،
 دی۔۔۔ ریڈ میں تاکہ فارن ویسلس
 کوئی نہ آئیں، پوچھنا نہ ہوں، سیکیورٹی
 کا معاملہ ہے، تو یہ اونٹ ویسلس کی کاپی
 نیشن کیا ہے، انڈین اونٹ، اونٹو،
 انڈین کپینز اور فارن ویسلس۔۔۔ اینڈ

"our own vessels should be there for surveillance"

اجو کام نیوی کا ہے، جو کام کو سٹیل کلرڈ
 کا ہے، جو کام ہماری ڈیفینس منسٹری
 کا ہے وہ کام انگریز ویسلس کو دیتے ہیں

میں دیگر ہمارے دیش کی کوئی کمیٹی لائی ہے یا خاورن ویسلس کمیٹی نیشنل کمیٹی جس کو ہم لائنس دیں گے؟ یہ بات نہیں ہونی چاہیے تو ہر وہ اور بھی ڈینچرس ہو جائے گا۔ سرو ویلنس کا کام اگر ہم فارن کمپنیز پر چھوڑ دیں گے وہ سرو ویلنس کریں گے ڈیپ سی میں ہمارے انفرسٹ کے لئے یہ کبھی نہیں ہو سکتا۔

تیسرا سوال ہے آج بھی فائو مان نکو بار میں اور ہمارے دوسرے جوائی۔ ای۔ زیڈ۔ ایریڈ ہیں وہاں مقامی، سنگاپور اور دوسرے یہاں تک کہ علاقہ دیش، ایسٹن علاقہ میں ہر ویسٹن علاقہ میں دوسرے جوائی کے پوچنگ کرتے ہیں ہمارے پاس آپریشن نہیں ہیں، ایگری کلچر منسٹری کے پاس، وقت یہ ہے، میں انکو دعوت نہیں دیتا، ایگری کلچر منسٹری کو شکل منسٹری ہے، چونکہ یہ پچھلی پکڑی جاتی تھی صرف ان لیڈ میں، تالاب میں، خدوں میں، اسلئے یہ ایگری کلچر کا معاملہ ہو گیا۔ لیکن اب

جب ڈیپ سی کا معاملہ ہے ای۔ ای۔ زیڈ ہے تو ایگری کلچر منسٹری کو درخشا دینے کے کوئی فائو نہیں ہے وہ انکی طاقت

کے بارے میں اس کی کمیٹی میں کیا ہو گا ہے یا کیا نہیں ہے۔ تو پوچنگ کو روکنے کا کام کو سٹیل لارڈ کا ہے، اسکو اور بھی اسٹرینگتھ کرن ہے، یہاں تک کہ ایک دم ٹیرن کی ریل وارٹ ہے، وہاں پر جواسٹیل بولیس ہے اسکو بھی اسٹرینگتھ کرن کی ضرورت ہے۔ تو میرا مشورہ ہے کہ جو کو سٹیل (اسٹیل) میں لے جو پور پورس ہیں تو اسٹرینگتھ کرن ان آپریشنز کے پاس جیپس ہیں، لیکن اسپید بوش نہیں ہیں، جو ایسے بہت سے آپریشنز کے پاس دیکھتے دیشنس آئے ہیں، مشورہ ہے کہ میں تو انکو اسٹرینگتھ کرن کے کیلئے اسکو پاس کو اور بھی اسٹرینگتھ کرن کے کیلئے، پوچنگ کو روکنے کیلئے، باقی کے تمام معاملوں میں آپ ہوں، اسٹرینسٹری ہو یا ڈیفنس منسٹری ہو، کس طرح سے ان کو اسٹرینگتھ کریں گے یہ ہمیں ذرا بتائیں۔

چوتھا سوال ٹریڈیشنل فیشر میں کے بارے میں ہے، منسٹری جن کا اس رجسٹر کا جواب، جس سوال سے یہ باف

ایں اور دیشنس آیا اور آج کا سوال یہ ہے کہ منسٹری جن میں ہے اور کنٹرول کریں ہے۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ ڈیپ سی میں جو فائوٹر ویسلس ہیں، لیڈ ویسلس ہیں یا لکھتے ویسلس ہیں، اوہی

ون پیر سنٹ آف دی کیچ“ جو پہلے وہ
قانون ورے کر رہے ہیں۔ متفرق جمی نے
اس روز کے جواب میں یہ کہا کہ ہمارا
جو ٹوٹل کیچ بڑھا ہے اس کے لئے یہ جو
لیزڈ اور لائسنس ہاؤس انفا ایک
انورڈن ہے، ایک رول ہے۔ پھر آج
وہ کہہ رہے ہیں اور اس روز بھی کہہ
رہے تھے کہ: [

there should be our own vessels.

|| جب ڈیپ سی فیشنگ پالیسی لائی
گئی تھی، لائسنس جب آپ لائے تھے،
لیزڈ دی تھی، فارن ویسلز جب
ہمارے ملک میں آئے تو آرگنومنٹ آپکا
یہی تھا کہ ہمارا جو فیشنگ کیچ ہے وہ
چونکہ ایکسپلاٹ نہیں ہو رہی ہے
اس لئے اسے ایکسپلاٹ کرنے کے لئے
ہم دوسروں کو اور بلائی گئے آج
۵۰ سال بعد یہ کہہ رہے ہیں کہ ”اوپنی
ون پیر سنٹ آف دی کیچ“ اس کے لئے
ہے۔ تو اسکا مطلب ہے کہ ٹوٹل غلط -
آپکو ماننا پڑے گا پھر باؤس میں آنکڑے
بڑھ چکے ہیں فیشنگ کیچ سے ہیں۔
آپکا جو سروے ہے جو گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا
کامیاب ہے۔ چونکہ فارنرس کو بلانا ہے،
ملٹی نیشنلس کو بلانا ہے، اس لئے بڑھ چکے

فیشنگس دیکھائے تھے، میرا سوال یہ ہو گا کہ
آپ نے اس وقت بڑھ چکے فیشنگس
کیا دیکھا ہے جسے کہ ٹوٹل فیشنگ ویلوقہ
گنتی ہے ہمارے ملک میں اور اس کے اندر
گنتا ایکسپلاٹ ہو رہا ہے؟ آج ۱۹۹۸
میں آپ کیا کہہ رہے ہیں کہ اتنی فیشریز
ویلوقہ ڈیپ سی ہیں اور اسکا انفا بڑھ
تھرڈ کوارٹر میں ہے کہ کیا گمنٹ وائر
ٹریڈیشنل....

شری سوم پال: فور قوسے کہو تقرڈ
کیسے آتا ہے، پہلے آپ نے کہا تھا فور قوسے -
شری محمد سلیم: یہ تقرڈ کا اے۔
ی۔ سی۔ ڈی۔ ہے۔ یہ تو ایک ہی
سوال ہے، آپ اسکا ہی جواب دیجئے۔
شری سوم پال: (ہنس) آپ اس کو
فقیقہ کہہ دیجئے۔

شری محمد سلیم: حقیقہ ہے یہ پوائنٹ
جو فارن ویسل والا معاملہ ہے وہ تو
بھر مغل ہو انٹ پر پھر آؤں گا ہی۔
جو قتا یہ ہے کہ سیگمنٹ وائر ٹریڈیشنل
بوٹ، میگینا کرڈ بوٹ، آپ نے کہا
ہے ابھی موٹر انڈر سیس موٹر انڈر جو
ابھی ہوا ہے وہ اور اس کے ساتھ جو انٹ
وینچس اور بک کچنر ہیں، ملٹی نیشنل

ہیں، اُن کا سیگنٹ عوام کی بیچ کھڑے
 تو ہمارے پاس معاملہ کلچر ہو جائیگا
 کہ ہم جو پالیسی بنائے ہیں وہ کس
 کے بہت میں بنا رہے ہیں، وقت
 یہ ہے کہ ایکسیپورٹ بڑھانے کے لئے
 ہم سبسڈی دے رہے ہیں، اچھی
 جان۔ ایف۔ فرناؤڈ بس نے بھی کہا
 ہے، بہت سا جوڈاٹا انکو دینا ہے، انکو
 سبسڈی دینا ہے اور بھی سہولتیں
 دینا ہے، کیونکہ ہمیں ایکسیپورٹ
 بڑھانا ہے، یہی تو ہمارا مقصد تھا،
 اور کتنا کٹوری بیسٹ ہو رہا ہے ان
 لوگوں سے جو آپ کے ان تمام اسٹیٹس
 سے سہولتیں دے رہے ہیں۔ کیونکہ ہماری
 دشمنی یہ ہے کہ آپ نے تو کہہ دیا کہ سیٹلائٹ
 سسٹم ہے، انڈامیشن سسٹم ہم اسے
 لاکھڑیں گے، لیکن فائدہ کس کو ملے گا،
 ہمارے فشرمین ہیں انکو نہیں ملے گا، تو کہہ
 لاجب پر اہم ہے۔ میں انکا معاملہ تو
 ریٹ نہیں کرتا ہوں۔ یہ ریٹریو والو
 سمجھیں ہے یہ بڑا اچھا ہے۔ انفارمیشن
 بھی ملے اور لوکاسٹ ہو، نہیں تو آپ
 بولیں گے کمپیوٹر انٹرڈ سیٹلائٹ تو وہ
 سب پھر بڑی کمپنیز لے لیں گی۔ آپ
 جو ۱۹ ٹرانزس کی بات کر رہے ہیں، چھٹا
 سونے یہ ہے کہ ۱۹ ٹرانزس کی جو بات کر

رہے ہیں دو کمپنیز میں ۱۹-۱۹]

own by which company, who are the
 collaborators, who are the promoters?

اس سے یہ پتہ چل جائیگا کہ کیوں
 ہم اسے بین نہیں کر سکتے۔ لاکھوں ٹرانزسٹل
 فشرمین افیکٹیو ہو رہے ہیں، عجیب
 بات ہے، میں کو مسئلہ اسٹیٹ سے آتا
 ہو گا کیونکہ ایک کو مسئلہ اسٹیٹ ہے، کو
 ایک کو مسئلہ اسٹیٹ ہے۔ جب یہ اسٹیز
 نہیں تو آپ کی سرکار نہیں تھی۔ آپ بھی
 اس وقت ہمارے بازو میں تھے اور تب
 دیکھا جائیگا بنا جو بیٹیشنس "ڈنڈر
 چیف آف کو مسئلہ گارڈس، بک آفیس
 بیورو کرٹیشن اور ملٹی نیشنل کو ہی کو بیورو
 بیٹیشن آپ بول رہے ہیں۔ دراصل کو
 بوریشن ہی نہیں ہے، انڈون اینڈرنگ
 ان دہلی، سنگ ان بنگلور "مید اعلیٰ"

I do not want to blame the serving
 people, but still if you say so...

+] تو میں اس کے خود مر بول رہا ہوں، یہ
 لوگ اور فلاں کمپنیز ہمارے ٹریڈیشنل فشر
 مین کو فٹنگ کرنے کا حق نہیں مل رہا ہے۔
 پچھلی مادی جا رہی ہے۔ اس کے بارے
 میں نہیں ہے، اور سرکار کی اسکیم یہ ہے

کے لیے نیشنل کمیشن، اس کو بارڈر شپ
 نہیں بولا جاتا ہے۔ ایک زمین اینڈ کوارٹر
 ٹرانکس۔ میں جسکا ہائی کنٹیکشن ہے
 اور اسے جو فٹنگ کر رہے ہیں، اس
 کے بعد آپ یہ کہہ رہے ہیں کہ ہم اسے
 بھی نہیں کریں گے۔ اس کے لیے جو نیٹس
 ہے اسے توڑنا پڑیگا۔ سرکار بدلتی ہے
 لیکن نیٹس ویسے ہی رہ جاتا ہے۔
 ساقراں سوال آپ کا یہ جو مائننگ
 کا معاملہ ہے، کو سٹیل گاڑیوں کا معاملہ
 ہے، تو وقت یہ ہوتی ہے کہ جب یہ ٹرانکس
 ہوتی ہے ٹریڈیشنل فشرمین میکینائزڈ
 بوٹ، سیسی میکینائزڈ بوٹ اور
 بڑے... تو ہمارے پیش کی جا رہی
 ہے کہ ان کو کون بای کنٹیکشن میں ور
 چھوٹے درجے کی گریڈ میں وہ کنٹیکشن
 ہو رہے ہیں کہ جب اسے نہیں ملتا ہے تو
 بغاوت کرتے ہیں، بڑے کی کوشش کرتے
 ہیں۔ تو نیچوری جو سرکاری بر شاسن
 ہے اسکی جو مرد ہے وہ نیچے والے لوگوں
 کے پاس نہیں پہنچتی اور لاگو کرنے والے
 وہی لوگ ہیں۔ اس کے آپ کی یہ مائننگ
 اور سرورینس سسٹم میں انٹر فشرمنس
 کیا ہوگی، جو ایگری کلچر سسٹم ہے وہ اس
 بارے میں آپ ذرا اپنے نظریہ کو بتا لیں گے
 میرا یہ بات کو زیادہ کہیں نہ کر کے

آپ سے یہ پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں کہ مراری کھیتی
 کی رپورٹ کے بارے میں اس سرکار کا
 کیا انداز ہے؟ آپ اسے ان کو لاگو کرنا
 چاہتے ہیں یا نہیں، یہ آپ سب کو بتانی
 "ختم شد"

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I feel that this should have been taken up as a Short-Duration-Discussion. So many subjects are there. Now, we have to confine ourselves only to the profession of fishermen, not the welfare of fishermen. Suppose if we take that issue also it will take more time.

7.00 P.M.

Three professions are age-old professions in India. Fishing is the third. The three professions are: agriculture, handloom weaving and fishing. These are age-old professions. All these three professions are under a great stress and strain, for different reasons. As far as fishing is concerned, the position is different and it varies from State to State. I will come to the question of welfare later. I would first point out as to what are the problems which the fishermen of Tamil Nadu are confronted with.

Till the beginning of the 70's, the fishermen of Tamil Nadu did not face any problems. But after 1974, for the last twenty-five years, they are suffering like anything. This is because of not only the reasons mentioned by my colleagues here. I do not want to mention those reasons which have already been mentioned by my colleagues. I would leave out those things. Only whatever is pertinent to Tamil-Nadu, I would say.

Sir, on 26th June, 1974, the Government of India entered into an agreement with the Government of Sri Lanka, to determine the boundary

† [Transliteration in Arabic Script]

between India and Sri Lanka, between the Adam Bridge and the Palk Straits. This was in 1974. Under that agreement, the fishing rights, drying of their nets by the Indian fishermen and the travel of pilgrims were assured. Unrestricted access to Kachchatheevu was ensured under that agreement. It was mentioned in that agreement that the vessels of India and Sri Lanka would enjoy, in each other's waters, such rights as they had enjoyed before, for centuries together. This was the thrust of the 1974 agreement.

Then, Sir, in 1976, the popular Government run by the DMK Party was dismissed. After the DMK Government was dismissed, in 1976 the Government of India had a second agreement, to determine the boundary in the Gulf of Mannar. This agreement was reached between the Government of India and the Government of Sri Lanka on 23rd March, 1976. It was signed by the then Foreign Secretary, Mr. Kewal Singh, on behalf of India, and Shri W. Jayasinghe, the Defence and Foreign Secretary of Sri Lanka.

What did this agreement say? Whatever rights were being enjoyed by the Tamil Nadu fishermen even after the 1974 agreement, whatever rights were being enjoyed by the Tamil Nadu fishermen for centuries together, were abrogated. This agreement said: 'The Indian fishing vessels and fishermen community shall not engage in fishing in the historical waters, territorial waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone of Sri Lanka; nor shall the fishing vessels and fishermen of Sri Lanka engage in fishing in the historical waters, territorial waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone of India, without the express permission of Sri Lanka or India, as the case may be.' When this agreement was reached, there was no popular Government in Tamil Nadu. Under President's rule, this was done. As a result of this, four fishermen are unable to go for fishing a right which they had enjoyed for centuries together.

I would like to point out here the kind of suffering being undergone by the Tamil Nadu fishermen. Between 1990 and 1998, there have been 123 incidents where our fishermen have been attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy. The number of boats attacked has been 229. Out of these 229 boats, 28 boats were sunk. In these attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy, 59 fishermen died. The number of injured has been 194. Incidents — 123. Boats attacked — 229. Boats sunk — 28. Fishermen died — 59. Fishermen injured — 194. These are official figures which I am giving. Then, Sir, whenever there are attacks against the Indian fishermen...

SHRI O.S. MANIAN (Tamil Nadu) A number of fishermen were arrested also.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: They are arrested also. Suppose they go into their territorial waters, they are arrested and harassed. They are taken to Sri Lanka, harassed and tortured.

Whenever an attack took place, it was immediately informed to the Government of India. What the Government used to inform the State Government is that it has taken up the matter with Sri Lanka and that it will see that it will not be repeated again. From 1990 to 1998, assurance after assurance has been given by the Government of India that it would not happen again. Even though several assurances were given by the Government of India, it has not stopped. We fear that it would not stop.

Our Prime Minister is now in Sri Lanka. He is going to talk on the Kashmir issue with the Prime Minister of Pakistan. I hope he would have spoken about Indian Tamil Fishermen with the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. If he has not done so, the hon. Minister should inform the Prime Minister that before he leaves Sri Lanka, he should take to this matter with the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and see that it does not happen again.

One or two minutes more, Sir.

As far as the welfare is concerned, 4,000 houses have been constructed, and shelters have been provided during the last two years in Tamil Nadu. A subsidy has been given for motorised boats. The diesel subsidy has been increased. We expect co-operation from the Central Government to further this help to fishermen.

We have enjoyed traditional fishing rights in those waters around Kachchatheevu. Our pilgrims have enjoyed the right to go and worship God in Kachchatheevu. All these things naturally have been *de facto* banned. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister through you, Sir,...

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu) Sir, he knows it very well because his leader is the Chief Minister there. He knows the problem. When our Madam was there, we had clearly, instructed all the Coast Guard people.

Now, my point is that if these people are accusing the previous Government, I would like to intervene.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): No, no, he is not accusing it.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: I am not accusing it. He has unnecessarily intervened. I am not accusing any Government. What I said is that when smugglers were coming or....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Please conclude.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: ...I or any militants were coming ...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Please conclude.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, I do not want to reply to that because it is an unnecessary question. An unwarranted question has been raised.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Not unwarranted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Mr. Sundaram, you were not here. You have not heard what he has said.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: In 1990, because ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): He was not there. You make your own points.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: If you expunge that from the proceedings, I will not reply to that. If you are going to retain that, I will have to reply to that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): No, no, expunction. I have told him that he was not here and that he has not heard what you have said.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, in 1990, the former Chief Minister has given a reply to a journalist that the DMK had failed to extend help to the LTTE people in 1980. She has said that twice ... *(Interruptions)* ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Why are you going into that? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA (Orissa): Sir, I have a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Virumbi, if you can yield please. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Wait, wait, Please sit down. There is a point of order. Mr. Minister, there is a point of order. What is your point of order, Mr. Khuntia?

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, this is a Half-an-Hour Discussion. The Chairman was kind enough to allow us, those of us who are signatories to it, to ask questions. I think another half an hour is there.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Yes, another half an hour is there. So, we should stick to the time.

Mr. Virumbi, do you want to ask questions? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, I think this matter pertain to the domain of international relations, external affairs. Being related to fisheries, this matter may have some implications. I may not be able to respond to it. This has to be raised in a separate manner. I think I will not be able to provide any authentic answer off hand. ... (*Interruptions*) ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): You speak on welfare.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: I hope the hon. Minister will intimate the Minister concerned to take up this matter. The Minister should take up the matter, what I told him, through you. He must give an assurance at least to that extent. The request that I make in this august House is

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Kindly put your questions on the welfare of the fishermen.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, I want an assurance from the Government of India that the attacks that have taken place will not be repeated. That is the assurance that I want.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Please go through the questions No. 1, 2, 3, 4, ...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: If this assurance is given, we can solve other problems.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): This discussion is on the welfare of the fishermen...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, fishermen are suffering because of the atrocities committed by the Sri Lankan Navy. We want an assurance that such type of attacks will not be repeated.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): You see the discussion is completely different from what you are submitting.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, this is the only assurance I expect from the Government.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Have you got anything else to say on the welfare of the fishermen?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, I do not want to go into the question of welfare, because I have already taken much time. But, Sir, if the hon. Minister says it is not within his Department, I would feel that he has also washed off his hands and the attacks will go on.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL (Madhya Pradesh) Sir, this is a matter which affects the life of seven million people mostly living in the coastal areas. I do not want to go into the details and the figures that have been mentioned, but the fact remains that the bulk of these people are traditional fishermen. There are three types of fishermen: (1) traditional fishing shipowners; (2) mechanised boat owners and (3) the deep-sea fishermen. All the progress that has been achieved, as has been mentioned in the figures, goes to the benefit of the higher category of people, those who are engaged either in the deep-sea fishing or those having mechanised boats. Sir, it is a fact that the traditional fishermen, who form a bulk of them, do not get the benefit. I think the figures mentioned by the hon. Minister will have to be checked, probably because the amount of catch that is being made by the ships in the deep-sea fishing, probably is not accounted for in the whole figure, because they do the fishing, process it and then export it from the sea itself. It is not brought to the mainland. The figure about this catch is not available here.

Sir, I have some interaction with these fishermen. I know how their position has gone from bad to worse. Therefore, the main question is regarding the implementation of the Murari Commission's Report. The hon. Minister wants to pursue the policy of phasing out big ships instead

of banning. I think this policy requires reconsideration, because unless it is effectively banned, as has been recommended by the Murari Commission, it will not benefit the traditional fishermen, who are getting less and less catch. This situation has to be corrected.

So far as Kerala is concerned, there is an additional problem created by the C.Z.R. (Coastal Zone Regulation). It is in operation in Kerala with 800 kilometres length and also covers about 44 rivers with so many lagoons. If you say that within a distance of about one and a half kilometres we shall not build up anything and all that, these regulations will be working adversely to the interests of the fishermen, to whom it was actually intended to give protection. A special consideration should be given to a State like Kerala, where there are peculiar problems and where there is a high density of population including fishermen. In regard to the welfare of the fishermen, I would like to say that though these fishermen are living by the side of the sea, they are facing the problem of availability of drinking water. A Special Scheme should be drawn up for their drinking water. Secondly, they do not have adequate medical facilities. Special arrangement should be provided for their treatment. Thirdly, they do not have adequate educational facilities. This also needs to be provided. A special effort is needed to provide them these facilities.

Sir, the hon. Minister was saying that there are surveillance regulations in the sea. It is not adequate. I would urge upon the Minister to consider strengthening the surveillance machinery.

The Minister was saying that unless we allowed bigger vessels for fishing, this cannot be effectively done. This argument is not correct. The surveillance should not be handed over to those private ship owners. It is the responsibility of the Central Government as well as the State Government. It should not be left to the multinationals and big ship owners. Thank you very much.

श्री राजभाई ए० परमार (गुजरात) : महोदय, हमारे गुजरात के 350 से भी ज्यादा फिशरमैन आज भी पाकिस्तान की कस्टडी में जेलों में बंद हैं। उसमें ज्यादातर माइनर बच्चे भी हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि इन फिशरमैन को छुड़ाने के लिए उनके मंत्रालय की तरफ से कुछ कार्रवाई की जाएगी या नहीं?

दूसरे, ज्यादातर यह लोग पाकिस्तान की बाउन्ड्री क्रॉस करके जाने की वजह से उनको अरेस्ट किया जाता है और कस्टडी में रखा जाता है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहूंगा कि यह अरेस्ट रोकने के लिए समुद्र में लाइट एनड वायस इंडीकेटर जैसा कुछ रखने की क्या कोई कार्रवाई की जाएगी जिसकी वजह से हमारे फिशरमैन पाकिस्तान की बाउन्ड्री क्रॉस कर नहीं सकें?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, Mr. Niraikulathan has raised the issue of welfare schemes which the Government are implementing for the benefit of the fishermen. There are several schemes. I would like to mention some of the programmes. One, motorisation of the traditional craft which is being provided to the traditional fishermen. About 35,000 of them are already there, which I have mentioned in my initial statement. Then there is a scheme for reimbursement of Central Excise duty on HSD oil. This is supplied to mechanised fishing vessels below 20 metres length. Then, enforcement of Marine Fishing Regulation Act and introduction of artificial reefs are being done. There are sea farming projects. Then we have Central sector schemes for fishery harbours at major ports. Then, there is a Centrally sponsored scheme for development of minor fishing harbours. There are fish landing centres. There are six major fish harbours. About 45 minor fishing harbours and 153 fish landing centres have been sanctioned so far. In the Central sector schemes, there is a project for post-harvest technology and marketing in regard to fisheries. Lastly in the Central sector there is a scheme for training in fishery operations through the Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training.

So far, under this scheme some sanctions have been given for motorisation of about 32,500 traditional craft, including about 19,300 against the target of 14,000 during the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Central share of subsidy of Rs. 1,177 lakhs at the rate of Rs. 6,000 per IBM and Rs. 5,000 per OBM has been released under the scheme so far. An equivalent amount of subsidy has been provided by the State Government also.

The reimbursement of Central Excise duty on HSD oil supplied to mechanised fishing vessels below 20 metres length has been made. This scheme has been under implementation from 1991 onwards in order to provide some relief to small mechanised fishing craft owners and operators towards the operational cost of these craft. A sum of Rs. 40 crores has been released. Under this scheme 80 per cent of Central share of reimbursement cost, including Rs. 29 crores during the Eighth Five Year Plan has been released. About 15,000 to 18,000 fishing vessels per annum have benefited under this scheme. Then, enforcement of the Marine Fishing Regulation Act is being done. We are setting up artificial reefs. Under this scheme, a sum of Rs. 25.06 crores has been released towards 100 per cent capital cost of 26 patrol boats to all maritime States.

The hon. Member, Shri Md. Salim suggested that the Marine Fisheries Regulation Act should be implemented more effectively. We are doing that. These patrol boats would be deployed for surveillance in our territorial waters in order to safeguard interests of traditional fishermen and to conserve fishery resources.

In this respect, I would like to state that there is no question of abdicating the responsibility of surveillance and policing. So far as the reinforcing and strengthening of the Union territory and State forces and enhancing their capability to have more effective surveillance are concerned, the Government surely is for this

and there is a need to do that. Besides, about 60 artificial reefs were also sanctioned under the scheme and these artificial reefs would help in replenishment of the coastal fishery resources.

On the Central ban on fishing by deep-sea fishing vessels, as I have already said, this is put every year and Kerala has always been requesting for that. Only this year the delay occurred because of the legal tangle, because of the case which is pending in the Bombay High Court. If I come to the chronology of events in issuing the Central ban order for 1998, the letter dated 4th June, 1998 was received from the Government of Kerala in the Ministry on 5th June, 1998. In view of a petition pending before the High Court at Mumbai on monsoon ban in Maharashtra, the matter was referred to the Ministry of Law and Justice on 11th June for their legal opinion. The file was received back from the Ministry of Law and Justice on 19th June, 1998 and since there was some clarification needed in the Law Ministry's advice, the file was again referred back on 25th June, 1998 to the Law Ministry. The Law Ministry's clarification was received in our Ministry on 1st July, 1998 and the same was submitted for orders of the Competent Authority on the same day, that is, 1st July. And on 15th July, we put the ban. Therefore, some delay has taken place. But from next year onwards, we feel that whenever a State asks for, we will do it. All the States are not asking for it. But Kerala has always been doing that.

So far as enhancing the capacity of modern fishing fleet in India is concerned—that is, motorised vessels—there has been a marked increase in all the categories of fishing craft in recent years. The traditional fishing fleet now numbers 1,91,207 which includes 35,000 motorised vessels which I have already informed the House about. The mechanised fleet is estimated to be about 47,000 and this is the major component which catches 65 per cent of the total catch of 29 lakh tonnes out of the 39 lakh tonnes which is

the assessed potential. And they are all essentially Indian. There is no vessel in this in a joint venture or a foreign category. This fast pace of increase in fishing fleet has been a matter of concern in all quarters and therefore, to preclude any chance of over-exploitation and building up of over-capacity fishing fleet, the Government constituted a national level Review Committee in the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy to make an overall assessment of the existing fishing fleet vis-a-vis the potential and the recommended future deployment of different categories of fishing vessels below 20 metre overall length in territorial waters. And as already indicated, we are feeling the need for deploying an intermediate range of vessels of around 15 metres length which can go into the intermediate zone which, in our perception, is still unexploited to quite an extent. Since the production from coastal waters up to 50 metres is close to the estimated harvestable potential, the Committee has recommended a freeze in the traditional and mechanised fishing fleet also at the existing level. However, considering the resource potential and the present level of production in the EEZ beyond the 50-metre length zone, the Committee has recommended an additional 700 number of "resource specific" vessels. That is to be underlined. "Resource specific" means that there are certain fish stock which are available on the surface which are at shallow depth and then medium range depth and then the bottom of the sea. These resources are identified according to the strata in the depth. So, this is to be 'resource specific'. Resource specific vessels have to be deployed. And these intermediate range of 15-20 metre overall length are to be introduced in the phased manner according to the resources available and the developed craft which are under development at the Institute of Fisheries Research Technology. These vessels include trawlers and gill nets-long liners.

Mr. John Fernandes himself has been on the Morari Committee and he has

already tried to emphasise the need for rethinking in the wake of globalisation, and in view of the information which we have received about Pakistan's entering into an agreement and having 200 vessels, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. House one additional fact, that under the International Sea Convention, all the sovereign states have got to establish their catch capacity. And unless we establish that, the other states can butt in, and there is an apprehension that landlocked states like Afghanistan and other countries may ask for access to this zone and, therefore, in view of this, surely I agree with his perception that there is a need to have rethinking.

So far as Mr. Salim's statement is concerned—he is in the habit of using poetical expressions and I know his capacity in using words so well and in chiding the Government—when he says that Government change but the attitude doesn't—it is not so. I have initially said that there is need for a change in the attitude, and in view of this new information, we have got to evolve a new policy which has been in shambles. This I have said earlier, and I again repeat my remark. So, there is no question of complacency or remaining oblivious to the situation. We are seized of the matter and we have got to have a new policy which will allow us to protect the interests of traditional fishermen who do not go beyond 12 nautical miles. About the intermediate range of vessels with better capacity, including the gadgets, which Mr. Fernandes has also talked about, as I have already informed you, the BL apparatus may be available.

So far as giving information to the traditional fishermen is concerned, I would repeat that: "whatever information we are getting through the satellite channel is being monitored by 279 landing centres on two days of a week and this is being given to all the traditional fishermen and the mechanised boats which go beyond 12 nautical miles." So, it is not that it is not available. But even then,

you want that this should be available continuously and there should be a chain of communication so that it can be available to the fishermen while they are fishing. Yes, there is a need for doing that, and keeping this objective in view, I have said that BL apparatus may be of use and we can seek other devices as well as means to do that. But there is really an imperative need to go in for such a communication system.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will you yield, Mr. Minister?

SHRI SOMPAL: Yes.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: We went and interacted with the fishing community in Maharashtra and Porbander. They go, of course, for almost seven days and then they return with a catch and they are totally cut off from the land, as to what is happening there. And your communication system, which you have stated, will cost about Rs. 75,000/-, and I don't think these people will be in a position to obtain it even if you give them some subsidy. So, the cheapest thing you can give them is the radio frequency. You don't have to invest more in the infrastructure. It is already there with Doordarshan.

SHRI MD. SALIM: They have an additional capacity.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: You have to add only one more frequency to the microwave tower.

SHRI SOMPAL: I have already said, and I have accepted the suggestion in this regard, that there can be some means of communication. In this age of well developed communication system these things can be worked out, but immediately I may not be able to say that this is the thing; surely it has got to be looked into.

Your suggestion, that we should act as a catalyst in bringing the States together in evolving a policy and avoiding the inter-State conflicts, is, of course, a good suggestion and the Central Government will surely look into that.

Then you were indicating the problem of tenancy and ownership laws. This is essentially a State subject and the Central Government....*(Interruptions)*... Just a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Are you going to have an aquaculture authority? Are you going to give it power?

SHRI SOMPAL: The aquaculture authority would monitor the intensity and number according to the assessed carrying capacity of the zone, but they cannot venture into the land deals and revenue matters. That is essentially a State subject and the States have to tackle it. We can depend on the States. They are responsible. They are always under the audit of the people and, therefore, the Governments change.

SHRI O.S. MANIAN: We want some regulations.

SHRI SOMPAL: That is what I am saying. We will have a mandate to regulate the aquaculture according to the carrying capacity of various places. Mr. Fernandes has rightly said that there is an apprehension that foreign ships are going to come to our waters in the exclusive economic zone as well as in the high seas and in the continental shelf. Therefore, we are thinking of having a new policy of allowing our own ships. Mr. Md. Salim wants to know who the owners of the ships are. When I say "our own ships" it means the ships which are owned by the Indians either by way of lease or by way of complete ownership. This will be the first priority, leaving room for others. Surveillance will be improved. Even in the case of environment and forests fencing efforts by Government have not succeeded anywhere in the world. Wherever private citizens and private enterprises own the things the surveillance has improved. The Government machinery including the Coast Guard cannot have so many ships which can make a complete line-up. If there are people who can report the incidents immediately they can report them. So, it is not that we are

abdicating that role. We will continue to have it. Firstly, the catch will improve and the economic benefit will accrue to the nation. Secondly, the surveillance will improve because the vessels will report themselves these things to the authority concerned. This is my idea. I think you will agree with me.

मोहम्मद सलीम साहब ने कहा है कि अभी आप समीक्षा कर रहे हैं। तो एक तरफ आप कह रहे हैं कि नीति की समीक्षा नहीं करते और दूसरी तरफ कह रहे हैं कि समीक्षा कर रहे हैं। समीक्षा तो नीति की होनी चाहिए, सदा होनी चाहिए। अगर लगता है कि कोई चीज छोड़नी है तो छोड़नी चाहिए, नई एडाप्ट करनी है तो नई करनी चाहिए। पुरानी को ज्यादा सामर्थ्य देनी है या उसको ज्यादा सुदृढ़ करना है तो उसकी आवश्यकता है, कुछ कमजोर करना है तो वह प्राथमिकताएं परिवर्तित होती रहती हैं। एक तरफ कार्य हुकूमत बदलती है पर नजरिया नहीं बदलता, दूसरी तरफ आप आरोप लगा रहे हैं कि समीक्षा कर रहे हैं। समीक्षा तो करनी ही चाहिए।

अंडमान निकोबार आदि से विदेशी जहाजों के आने की बात आपने कही, वह माननीय जॉन फर्नांडिस साहब ने भी कही थी। उसका मैं पहले ही जवाब दे चुका हूँ। एजेंसों की पुलिस क्षमता बढ़ाने की बात कही, उसकी आवश्यकता है। मैंने आपकी बात को पहले ही माना है। परम्परागत मछुआरों की बात और जो 47 हजार.... जहां मैंने यह कहा है कि कैच बढ़ा है उसमें कोई विरोधाभास नहीं है। जो उस दिन मैंने उतर दिया था और आज के उत्तर में हमने कहा है कि जो परम्परागत मछुआरे हैं वह 12 नौटिकल माइल्स से ज्यादा दूरी पर गहन सिन्धु में मत्स्य आखेट के लिए नहीं जा सकते। उस क्षेत्र में जाने के लिए जो गहरा समुद्र है उसमें आखेट के लिए जो जाते हैं वहां उसके लिए यांत्रिकृत नावों की जरूरत है। इन नौकाओं के कारण हमारा फिश कैच बढ़ा है, यह मैंने कहा था और आज भी वही बात कह रहा हूँ। उनका 65 प्रतिशत अंश इसमें है और 34 प्रतिशत परम्परागत मछुआरों का जो केवल 12 नौटिकल मील तक जाते हैं।

बड़े-बड़े जहाज किनके पास हैं जहां तक उनकी सूची का हवाल है। मेरे पास इसकी पूरी सूची उपलब्ध है ज्वॉइंट बैच वाली भी और लीज वाली भी। मैं इनके नाम पढ़ देता हूँ।...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसि): नहीं, इसमें टाइम लगेगा। आप उसको ले कर दीजिए।

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: पढ़ देने दीजिए, उसमें केवल 19 शिप हैं।

الشیخ محمد سلیم : ہرگز دینا دیجیٹ
اس میں صرف ۱۹ شیب ہیں۔

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसि): लिस्ट को ले कर सकते हैं। आप ले कर दीजिए।

SHRI SOMPAL: As directed by the Chair, I lay it on the Table of the House. परन्तु मैं यह जरूर कहना चाहूंगा मोहम्मद सलीम साहब से कि इस विषय में माननीय सदस्यों को भी पुनर्विचार करना चाहिए। इसमें परस्पर हितों के टकराव की बात है। एक तरफ हम परम्परागत मछुआरों का वह क्षेत्र सुरक्षित रखना चाहते हैं और उनकी यह मांग सदा से रही है कि अगर गहरे समुद्र में फिशिंग नहीं होगा तो शायद वह मछली यहां आ जाएगी। परन्तु अभी भी उनके पर्याप्त मिल रही है, उसमें कोई कमी नहीं है, उसमें कहीं किसी किस्म की कमी नहीं दिखती है। उनके फकड़ने के लिए इसकी आवश्यकता पड़ती है। अगर उसके इंटरमीडिएट रेंज के बाहर है, अगर हम उसके खुला छोड़ देंगे तो दूसरे का फकड़ना तो शायद स्वीकार हो जाए, तो यह बात विचाराणीय है। जैसा इसको सदन करे, सरकार तो सहमति से चलने वाली है।...

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: आप एक रिव्यू कमेटी बना दीजिए।

الشیخ محمد سلیم : آپ ایک ریویو
کمیٹی بناد دیجیٹ

श्री सोमपाल: रिव्यू कमेटी तो बहुत बन चुकी है जिस चीज को टालना हो तो उसके लिए रिव्यू कमेटी बैठा दीजिए। कमेटी हमने बैठाई है जिसके बारे में मैंने पहले ही कहा है और जिसका मैंने अभी संदर्भ भी आपको दिया है।

Shri Virumbi talked about an agreement between Sri Lanka and the Government of India. As I have stated earlier, this matter belongs to the Ministry of

External Affairs. I will find out what the current problem is.

Shri O. Rajagopal raised an issue of traditional fishermen not being benefited. I think the reply which I have given should be adequate to satisfy the hon. Member. Then he expressed a doubt—that may not be misplaced—that there are certain vessels which do not bring the catch to the mainland and they take it away. We have to find it out. If it has happened, it should be stopped.

As Shri Rajagopal said, the Murari Committee report has to be reconsidered. We are already doing it.

So far as coastal zone regulation is concerned, I have already stated all the dimensions of the problem. There has been a demand that the coastal zone regulation should not be enforced stringently. I had picked up a tiff with the Chief Minister of Kerala when I was on a visit. He was also trying to do that. This matter has to be settled in consultation with the Ministry of Environment. But we cannot be oblivious to the environmental concerns. That is our prime concern because sustainability of these reserves depends on the conservation and preservation of fisheries wealth.

So far as welfare of fishermen, provision of drinking water, education and other things are concerned—Shri Raghavan and other hon. Members raised these issues—the State Governments are expected to come out with schemes. If they come out with feasible schemes, the Central Government would not be found lacking in assisting them.

Shri O. Rajagopal and Shri Salim said, "We are handing over everything to MNCs." I have never said that we are handing over anything to MNCs or any foreigners. At no stage we have said so. Rather I have been categorically denying it and there is no intention to do it. At least in our regime there has never been an attempt to do so.

So far as phasing out is concerned, I may say that the Murari Committee report has not given any cut-off date. Both of you were Members of that Committee. If you have any information, I would like to be enlightened on that. But the vessels presently operating under the lease arrangement would be phased out by the end of 2000. The permit of 19 vessels which are presently operating under the joint venture could be terminated only on violation of terms and conditions which I have already stated. If it is to be done individually, it will have to be done in consultation with the Law Ministry otherwise, they can run the vessels till they physically phase them out. The span is estimated to be around 10 to 12 years. I think I have covered all the points.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Shri Parmar raised a point about harassment to Indian fishermen.

श्री सोमपाल: इस संबंध में मुझे विदेश मंत्रालय से बात करनी पड़ेगी। यह महत्वपूर्ण बात है। विदेश मंत्रालय के जिन प्रश्नों का आज मैंने लोक सभा में उत्तर दिया, उनके संदर्भ में मैंने यह पक्का ज़क़र है कि हाल ही में पाकिस्तान के साथ कुछ बात हुई थी जिसमें से कुछ हमारी नावें जो उन्होंने गिरफ्तार की थी और जो हमने उनकी नावें गिरफ्तार की थी, आपस में उनकी अदला-बदली हुई है। कुछ मछुआरों को उन्होंने छोड़ा है और कुछ को हमने छोड़ा है। परन्तु यदि कुछ और है तो निश्चित रूप से इस संबंध में पाकिस्तान से बात की जानी चाहिए। आपकी बात को मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी और विदेश मंत्रालय तक अवश्य पहुंचाने की कोशिश करूंगा।

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: What about light indicators?

SHRI SOMPAL: This is one thing on which I am not in a position to say anything. I think there is a need for demarcating such things so that they do not stray into other areas and they do not run the hazard of being arrested by the alien Government.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

On points arising of answer to Starred Question No. 325 given on 9th July, 1998 regarding frequent losses due to natural calamities