

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with this issue.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

**Strike by fishermen in Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu following arrest of
fishermen by Sri Lankan Naval personnel**

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am raising an issue which is very important, which relates to both India and Sri Lanka. More than 15,000 fishermen are on strike in Rameshwaram. The temple city Rameshwaram is very tense. The reason for this is, a couple of days ago, 20 fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy. First, they were taken to Talaimannar and now the reports are that they have been taken to Anuradhapuram Prison in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan Navy confiscated four boats. It is not the first incident. Such incidents are taking place every now and then. It is reported that more than 100 fishermen have disappeared. Their whereabouts is not known. It has been declared that they have disappeared. One boat costs Rs. 7 to 10 lakhs. The Sri Lankan Navy is not only shooting the Indian fishermen indiscriminately, they are also confiscating their boats, thereby robbing the livelihood of the Indian fishermen. What is the Government of India doing to protect the Indian fishermen? The Government should take urgent steps to get their release and to protect the Indian fishermen. But the Government will have to take certain long-term measures. Firstly, it is high time that the Government of India demanded re-opening and renegotiations of the Katchatheevu Island. I have spoken about it in the same august forum earlier. The Sri Lankan Government is contemplating to build a military base at Katchatheevu. Even though the Sri Lankan Government has made some denials, things are not as they claim to be, and the Navy is surrounding the Island. The Indian fishermen cannot venture into the sea around the Katchatheevu Island. It is highly deplorable, and the Government of India is keeping a studied silence on the issue. The Government of India is not speaking out openly against the atrocities committed by the Sri Lankan Navy. Sir, it is not an issue for Rameswaram or Tamil Nadu. It is an issue for the entire country. I would like to know why the Government of India is keeping silent. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): What he is saying is totally wrong? The External Affairs Minister has spoken to them. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: The External Affairs Minister is sitting here. She may be the spokesperson for the party outside the House, but not for Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, why are they interrupting? Kindly ask them to sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: How can he mislead the House?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I cannot tell the Member what he has to speak. It is his prerogative. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: The Minister is sitting here. Let him state the facts. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: He is misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't mislead the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja, please complete your speech.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, there are interruptions. You should protect my right.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am asking them to sit down. I am protecting your right. ...*(Interruptions)* There cannot be interruptions in the Zero Hour mentions. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is the Member's prerogative.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, the Prime Minister of India has made several assurances. But what action has been taken so far to guarantee the safety and security of Indian fishermen? And I demand that it is time for the External Affairs Minister and the Government to take up the Katchatheevu Agreement with the Sri Lankan Government for its re-opening and renegotiations. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, we would like to know. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, no more interruptions, please. We are not allowing a debate.

DR. K. MALAISAMY (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you want, you associate yourselves with it. I cannot allow a discussion.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I would very much like to associate myself with it. At the same time,...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is all. You have associated yourself with it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Other than that, nothing else will go on record. Now, Shri M.V. Mysura Reddy.

**Illegal construction of Bridge-cum-barrages by Karnataka over river
Krishna and its tributaries**

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government of India and the Ministry of Water Resources regarding unauthorised construction of bridge-cum-barrage by the State of Karnataka. The State of Andhra Pradesh is already suffering because of the construction of Almatti Dam. Now, the State of Karnataka is constructing a chain of bridge-cum-barrages on the Krishna River. Sir, the Karnataka Government is constructing 20 barrages on Ghata Prabha, 18 barrages on Bhima, 10 barrages on Mala Prabha and 7 barrages on River Krishna. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No interruptions, please. Interruptions will not go on record.