

**REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED INTERCEPTION OF FOREIGN TRAWLERS OPERATING IN INDIA'S TERRITORIAL WATERS OFF THE COAST OF TUTICORIN IN TAMIL NADU**

**SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM** (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I rise to draw the attention of the Government through this House to a serious matter of urgent public importance.

Sir, illegal fishing in our territorial waters by the foreigners is on the increase. Recently, Sir, on Monday last, several trawlers were seen off the coast of Tamil Nadu near Tuticorin and Ponnukayal. Our coastal guards were able to capture one of the trawlers and identify it as belonging to Taiwan. They have captured the occupants also. We must appreciate the coast guards who have done this. But the other trawlers, they say, have escaped. Sir, this is a very serious matter because it affects the sovereignty of our country over our territorial waters and further, our sea wealth is being plundered very often. The loss is estimated to run into several hundreds of crores of rupees. Recently, the fishermen in Tirunelveli district were attacked and their nets were destroyed by these foreign trawlers and they were afraid of going into the deep sea to have their catch. So, it affects the interests of our fishermen and it affects the interests of our fishing industry and it affects our sovereignty. Our coast guards... (Interruptions)... Sir, I think the honourable Minister must be interested in this subject because it relates to his portfolio also. So, let him wait for some time and listen to this and even if he cannot answer straightway, at least let him take note of what I say, because it concerns not merely Tamil Nadu, but our national wealth. Sir, there are several reports in the press. In the last twenty months, thirty trawlers from Taiwan were seized off the west coast alone. They were, however, released after stern warning. Why this generous treatment to these intruders who plunder our wealth and attack

our fishermen and destroy whatever means of livelihood they have got? Why such lenient consideration for these people?

**SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN** (Tamil Nadu): You said thirty trawlers?

**SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:** Yes, thirty. That is what I have said.

**SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN:** Not a small number.

**SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:** Yes, it is not a small number. Sir, when thirty trawlers can come, that means the Mother Ship is also there somewhere nearby. These trawlers deliver their plunder to the Mother Ship.

**SHRI V. GOPALSAMY** (Tamil Nadu): Yes, the others will be waiting.

**SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:** The Mother-ship will be waiting to gather the catches made by these small vessels.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA):** Please finish.

**SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:** I will finish in a minute, Sir. But this is a very serious matter, more serious than the Pushpak intrusion in IAC. Myself and my friends, Mr. Gopalsamy and Mr. Mohanarangam, approached the Chairman and gave notice of a calling-attention motion so that it would provide an opportunity to the Minister to reply. But permission was not given. But I must say I am grateful to the Chairman for having permitted us to make a special mention of this, problem today. Now, Sir, coming to the suggestions, it is a serious problem concerning Tamil Nadu—Gulf of Mannar and Palk Straits—where precious kind of fish is available which is the attraction for these foreign trawlers

[Shri M. Kalyanasundaram]

either from China, Taiwan or from Japan.

AN HON. MEMBER: A most valuable foreign exchange earner.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: It involves foreign exchange to the extent of hundreds of crores of rupees. The coastal guard system is very weak. They have several functions. They have to tackle smugglers with superior boat service and they have half-a-dozen vessels for guarding such a lengthy coast both in the west and east. So, coastal guards must be strengthened. For the time being at least. I would suggest to the hon. Minister for Shipping and Transport, who is present at the moment, that he takes it up with the Defence Ministry and press into service our naval ships, so that these trawlers and the mother ship can be chased away from our territorial waters, so that our sovereignty may be upheld, our fishermen may be protected, their living can be protected. Thousands of them are unemployed and they are afraid of leaving their shores. Some emergent steps should be taken by pressing into service our Navy to chase away these trawlers. This suggestion is number one. Secondly, all those who have been captured should not be let off leniently. These people must be put on trial and they must be punished and the countries which are responsible for sending such people—they must also be told that we have the right to claim damages for the plunder of our sea-wealth. Relief should be given to the affected fishermen. These are the suggestions that I want to make to the Government and I request the hon. Minister to make a statement according to his convenience before this House so that our country may know what is happening to our sea wealth. We should take steps to develop our fishing industry.

# REFERENCE TO THE NEED TO START A SHUTTLE SERVICE BY THE RAILWAYS BETWEEN BARWAR AND KHANDWA

श्री प्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल (मध्य प्रदेश):

श्रीमन, इंदोर और खंडवा के बीच में एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण समस्या की ओर मैं आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। पिछले साल अधिक वर्षा होने के कारण इंदोर खंडवा के बीच एक नदी का पुल बह गया। पिछले साल से वहाँ पर आवागमन में बहुत असुविधा है। इस कठिनाई को देख कर पिछले साल रेल विभाग ने बंवाट खंडवा के बीच शटल आरम्भ किया था। इस साल भी बहुत बारिश हो रही है और सड़क पर आवागमन बन्द हो गया है। इंदोर और खंडवा के बीच सैकड़ों लोगों का प्रतिदिन आना जाना होता है। इसलिए आवागमन की सुविधा की दृष्टि से यह जरूरी है कि वहाँ पर खंडवा और बड़वार के बीच शटल शुरू किया जाए। इस संबंध में मैंने रेल विभाग का भी ध्यान आकर्षित किया है कि बड़वाह शटल सेवा आरम्भ की जाए। इस क्षेत्र में सनावद के नजदीक एक नदी पर बने पुल के बाढ़ में बह जाने के कारण सड़क यातायात बारिश में बन्द हो जाता है। सैकड़ों लोगों को रोजाना आने जाने में कठिनाई होती है। इसलिए बड़वार खंडवा शटल अविलम्ब आरम्भ की जावे। गत वर्ष बारिश के दिनों में जनता की सुविधा के लिए रेल विभाग द्वारा यह शटल सविस शुरू की गई थी। ऐसे न होने से आवागमन अस्त व्यस्त हो जाता है और लोगों की कठिनाई बढ़ जाती है। अतः मेरी मांग है कि इस संबंध में रेल विभाग तुरन्त कार्यवाही करे, शटल सविस आरम्भ करे।

## REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED PROPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPORT THREE FOREIGN MADE TURBINES REJECTING THE TURBINES PRODUCED BY THE BHEL

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West BENGAL): Sir, I bring to the notice