

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The whole House associates. ...(*Interruptions*)...

Attack on 35 Indian fishermen and their arrest by Sri Lankan Navy

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I wish to bring to the attention of the Government a problem which we have brought again and again before the Government, and I cannot remember how many times this issue has been raised in Parliament and in this House also. The issue related to the arrest and detention of 194 Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy in the past few weeks. We are left with no other option but to come back to this House to raise this issue. On 31st July, 65 fishermen were arrested by Sri Lankan Navy for crossing the maritime boundary. The very next day, on 1st August, 74 fishermen from Nagapattinam were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy and they had been remanded in Trincomalee. Further on 3rd August, another 20 fishermen from Rameshwaram were arrested by Sri Lankan Navy. Again, on 26th August, 35 fishermen were taken into custody by Sri Lankan Navy. In those few days, a total of 194 fishermen have been taken into custody by the Sri Lankan Navy and there are already 25 fishermen languishing in Anuradhapuram jail in Sri Lanka on false charges. I wish to remind the Minister of the plight of five fishermen from Thangachimadam who have been kept in Sri Lankan jail since November, 2011, over twenty months, without trial and after the hearings were adjourned twenty-five times. The waters between India and Sri Lanka around Katchatheevu have been traditional fishing areas for our fishermen from time immemorial, and crossing the international maritime boundary cannot be a statutory offence.

Sir, with this background in mind, I remind the Government that in the past, hundreds of fishermen have been shot at and hurt and even killed. And their families haven't got an answer or any justice till today. I would like to remind this and also express our feelings to the Central Government which has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court which would adversely affect the lives of our fishermen forever. The Tamil Nadu Government has filed a petition seeking to declare the Agreements between 1974 and 1976 as unconstitutional between New Delhi and Colombo regarding Katchatheevu. Our leader, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, has also described this affidavit as highly condemnable ...(*Interruptions*)... *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your time is over. ...(*Interruptions*)... It is not going on record. ...(*Interruptions*)... After three minutes, it won't go on record. ...(*Interruptions*)...

*Not recorded.

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate with the submission made by hon. Member.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate with the submission made by hon. Member.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate with the submission made by hon. Member.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): Sir, I also associate with the submission made by hon. Member.

श्री वी. मात्रेयन (तमिल नाडु) : अध्यक्ष, मैं इससे सम्बन्धित प्रस्ताव के साथ सहमत हूँ।

श्री डी. राजा (तमिल नाडु) : अध्यक्ष, मैं इससे सम्बन्धित प्रस्ताव के साथ सहमत हूँ।

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate with the submission made by hon. Member.

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate with the submission made by hon. Member.

DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I also associate with the submission made by hon. Member.

श्री नजमा अ. हेपटुल्ला (मध्य प्रदेश) : अध्यक्ष, मैं इससे सम्बन्धित प्रस्ताव के साथ सहमत हूँ।

श्री टी. रातना बाई (आन्ध्र प्रदेश) : अध्यक्ष, मैं इससे सम्बन्धित प्रस्ताव के साथ सहमत हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: After three minutes, it will not go on record. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar to associate.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Nominated): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shrimati Kanimozhi.

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Raja can say one sentence. First, I have called Mr. Raja, then Dr. Maitreyan.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, it is not going on record. Shrimati Kanimozhi, it is not going on record. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please,...(*Interruptions*)... Yes, Shri Rangarajan to associate. Shrimati Vasanthi Stanley to associate. Mr. Kannan to associate.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shrimati Kanimozhi.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shrimati Kanimozhi.

SHRI P. KANNAN (Puduchery): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shrimati Kanimozhi but partially...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, it is not going on record, sister. ...(*Interruptions*)... What is the use? It is not going on record. Please, be seated. ...(*Interruptions*)... It is not going on record. After three minutes.(*Interruptions*)....

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, Shrimati Kanimozhi, please co-operate. What is the point in saying when it is not going on record? Now, Mr. Raja, you are permitted to say only one sentence.

SHRI D. RAJA : Sir, the Government of India has got a political and moral responsibility to protect the fishermen. The Government of India should not look at them as Tamil fishermen; they are Indian fishermen. The Government of India has a responsibility to save our fishermen. This is what I would like to emphasise.

DR. V. MAITREYAN : Sir, in spite of repeated reminders from our Chief Minister and in spite of the Calling Attention Motion moved by me in this House, the Government of India has only parroted that they will do all the needful, but

they are not doing anything. They should understand that when persuasive diplomacy did not work; coercive diplomacy will have to be adopted. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Shri Avinash Rai Khanna...(Interruptions)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, while associating myself with the matter raised by Shrimati Kanimozhi, I would like to say that it is high time that the Government of India engage Sri Lanka and then review the accession of Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka because that is becoming a flash point. Let us all focus our attention on that. As Mr. Raja rightly said, it is a matter of Indian fishermen. The Government of India should take it seriously.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, one sentence from the Congress. I wish to associate myself with the remarks made by Madam Kanimozhi and to stress that the Government of India has arrangements, signed arrangements, with the Government of Sri Lanka in terms of which these issues have to be resolved. They must invoke those clauses.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, one sentence...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, this is not a discussion.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I just want to say one sentence of association. What has just been said about the Government of India having agreements with Sri Lanka, those must be strictly enforced. My association is on the basis of what Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar has said.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is a valid suggestion. Now, Shri Avinash Rai Khanna.

Non-fulfilment of the assurances given by the Government after Kishtwar incident

[illegible]