

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why not? ...*(Interruptions)*... Why cannot it be allowed? What is your objection?

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, law and order is a State subject. ...*(Interruptions)*... You have set a precedent, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't say like that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, you have set a precedent. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't say like that. ...*(Interruptions)*... Are you justifying it? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: It is not about personal attachment with any issue or any person. But Rules are Rules. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What are you talking about? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: A State issue should not be taken up in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are you agreeing with the celebration? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: How was it allowed here? ...*(Interruptions)*... Law and order is a State subject and they should have taken up that responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)*... They have not taken up the responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)*... Then why should it be raised here?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What are you talking about? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: We know every one.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tiruchi Siva, you come to your subject.

Issue of release of recently detained Tamil Nadu fishermen by Sri Lanka

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, my Party DMK, under the Leader Dr. Kalaignar, for the timely intervention in securing the release of five Tamil Nadu fishermen who were on death row in Sri Lanka. Sir, the fishermen, condemning this issue, were on strike for a brief period. After that, when they were out for fishing last Saturday, on 22nd of November, three boats did not return and 14 fishermen who were fishing were missing. It came to be known that again the Sri Lankan Navy has apprehended 14 fishermen and captured 3 boats. Sir, already 24 fishermen have been languishing in the prison of Sri Lanka for the past two months, and 75 boats and 3 more boats now, 78 boats have been precariously berthed in Sri

Lanka, and the North-East monsoon, which prevails in Sri Lanka, I think, will cause a very bad damage to those boats. Sir, the Sri Lanka's strategy of detaining the boats has left the people of Tamil Nadu to an extreme frustration. Deprived of their livelihood base, the fishermen in Tamil Nadu are in very much despair. Sir, I would urge the Government of India to immediately take initiative and move the highest authorities to release the boats and the fishermen as well as to retrieve Katchchatheevu, which is the only solution. Whenever our fishermen are fishing in Indian waters, our territorial rights are being deprived of by the Sri Lankan Navy.

Sir, above all, I would like to say one thing. One former Union Minister, a Harvard University product, who claims himself to be in BJP authority, appears on television and discloses that he only urged the President of Sri Lanka not to release the boats. The party which is running the Government, has not disowned his statement. When we are very much confident and hopeful with the Government that they would release our boats and our fishermen, another person from the same party comes and says that we won't release, it is skeptical. I urge the Government to kindly stop such irresponsible comments which create unnecessary problems in Tamil Nadu. The fishermen are already in despair and their future is bleak. The fishing boats have to be released immediately. Our persistent demands here in the House and our Leader's letter to the Government are in futile. I hope that before conclusion of this Session, we would again raise the same issue. It is an unending episode. Sir, the lives of our Tamil Nadu fishermen are in a very big question mark and the responsibility lies with our Government. During the elections, the same party assured that a Fisheries Ministry will be established to resolve these issues, but again the same story is going on. Sir, our Tamil Nadu fishermen, I am afraid, will be totally brought out of fishing and their future is a big question mark. This issue should be taken up very seriously. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time over. Now, Shri Muthukaruppan. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to bring only one fact ...(Interruptions)... Hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has filed a writ petition before the Supreme Court to retrieve Katchchatheevu. ...(Interruptions)... That may be brought on record. ...(Interruptions)...

DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

Recent arrest of Tamil Nadu fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy

SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise this issue urgently to draw the attention of the Government of India to take immediate steps to release the arrested fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy.