

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.

The Sri Lankan Navy, on Sunday, the 23rd November, 2014, arrested 14 fishermen from Tamil Nadu in the seas of Nedun-theevu. Three of them are below the age of 18. When the engine of a fishing boat had broken, other fishermen had come to the spot to help the fishermen. The Sri Lankan Navy assaulted the fishermen, including 14 year old Dinesh Kumar, 17 year old Naveen and 18 year old Satish Kumar. The Sri Lankan Navy pelted stones on the Tamil Nadu fishermen, that is, the Navy people possessed stones.

Sir, 10 of the detained fishermen are from Jegadapattinam in Pudukottai District and 4 are from Rameshwaram. Three boats have been seized by the Sri Lankan Navy. Already, 24 fishermen from Tamil Nadu are in the Jaffna prison.

Again, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, for timely intervention for release of 5 Indian fishermen on death penalty in Sri Lanka.

Furthermore, Sir, my Leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is concerned. On behalf of the State Government of Tamil Nadu, for filing appeal against death sentence, hon. Amma allocated ₹ 20 lakhs towards litigation expenses, Sir. Further, after the release of five fishermen from death penalty under the aid and advice of my leader, hon. Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the Government of Tamil Nadu handed over ₹ 3 lakh each to all the five persons, a total of ₹ 15 lakh was paid. I urge the hon. Prime Minister of India and the Foreign Affairs Minister to intervene and release 38 fishermen of Tamil Nadu and their 78 boats. Sir, the permanent solution is the retrieval of Kachchatheevu Island, that is, the traditional and historical fishing grounds of Palk bay to the Tamil Nadu fishermen. Hon. Amma raised and discussed the same fishermen problem in the year 1985 when she was a Member of this august House. Further, Sir, I sincerely and seriously ask the Government of India to intervene in this matter speedily and release the arrested fishermen and also find a permanent bilateral solution to stop the barbaric acts of the Sri Lankan Navy against our poor Indian fishermen. Thank you very much, Sir.

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri S. Muthukaruppan.

SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri S. Muthukaruppan.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri S. Muthukaruppan.

SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri S. Muthukaruppan.