

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं अपने को इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री दिलीप कुमार तिकी (ओडिशा): उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं अपने को इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं अपने को इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन (बिहार): उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं अपने को इससे सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

Ongoing plight of Tamil Nadu fishermen

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the plight of the Tamil Nadu fishermen, who are being harassed by the Sri Lankan Navy, is an issue which we have been raising time and again in this House. And all my esteemed colleagues have joined me. But this has become a sermon, for no improvement is seen. We have been raising this issue in every Session. We have to raise this issue. We have been struggling for the past three days to bring this issue. The fishermen's livelihood is at stake in Tamil Nadu.

On 31st January, Tamil Nadu fishermen from Jegadapattinam and Kottaipattinam in Pudukottai District were out on fishing. They were arrested and about fifty fishing nets had been damaged by the Sri Lankan Navy while they were near the Anaikkadutheevu.

On 11th February, 12 Tamil Nadu fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy personnel for allegedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line near the Katchatheevu.

On 15th February, ten Tamil Nadu fishermen were attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy personnel using iron rods and ropes while fishing near the Katchatheevu.

Sir, these incidents have happened after the Ninth Joint Commission Meeting between our External Affairs Minister, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, and her Sri Lankan counterpart in Colombo where they were to discuss bilateral and regional issues.

Sir, the Katchatheevu issue is yet to be settled. But, at the same time, the Katchatheevu Agreement gives access to our fishermen to dry their nets on the island

and take rest as well as to visit Anthoniyar Temple. But even that is not entertained. The moment they go out for fishing, they are severely attacked by the fishermen. We thought that after the visit of the External Affairs Minister and after their meeting, some fruitful things will come to us. But so far, nothing has happened. As per the Agreement, the Indian fishermen have not been given any right entitled to them.

On 26th October 2008, the Indian Government reached an agreement with the Sri Lankan Government to put in place some practical arrangements to deal with the *bona fide* Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen. But no further development has taken place, for the harassment by the Sri Lankan Navy is going on for ever.

Given these circumstances, fishermen from eight coastal districts in Tamil Nadu have decided that they will lay siege to the Deputy High Commission of Sri Lanka at Chennai on 29th February. They are demanding the release of 29 fishermen who have been arrested and have been languishing in the Sri Lankan prisons. Also, they are demanding the release of 78 fishing boats that have been seized by them. In this light, it is very, very pertinent that the Union Government steps in and takes necessary steps to put a full stop to this harassment and humiliation being meted out.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time is over. All the names of the hon. Members, who have associated with the mention, may be added.

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

SHRI S. THANGAVELU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

श्री नरेंद्र कुमार कश्यप (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं अपने को इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं अपने को इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री जावेद अली खान (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं अपने को इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

† جناب جاوید علی خان (اترپردیش): آپ سبھاپتی مہودے، مانئیے سدسئیے نے جو موضوع اٹھایا ہے، میں اپنے کو اس سے سمبڈ کرتا ہوں۔

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri K. T. S. Tulsi, not here. Now, Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda.

† Transliteration in Urdu script.