

**Demand to solve the Problems being faced by
Fishermen of Tamil Nadu**

SHRI E M SUDARSANANATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to talk about the problem faced by Tamil Nadu fishermen. Sri Lankan Navy arrested Tamil Nadu fishermen along with mechanised boats and country *vallam*. They were later released. But the boats were not given to them. About 33 boats are on the shores of Sri Lanka. When they delay in returning to the fishermen, they become useless. Hence, Government of India should take immediate steps to get back the boats belonging to Rameshwaram fishermen. Further, Permanent steps should be taken to avoid recurring occurrence in Kachchatheevu islands. Thank you.

SHRI G.K. VASAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri E M Sudarsana Natchiappan.

SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri E M Sudarsana Natchiappan.

PANEL OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform the Members that I have nominated the following Members on the Panel of Vice-Chairman:

1. Shri Santosh Bagrodia (Rajasthan)
2. Shrimati Sarla Maheshwari (West Bengal)
3. Shri Balawant alias Bal Apte (Maharashtra) and
4. Shri Dinesh Trivedi (West Bengal)

सदन के माननीय सदस्यों की यह इच्छा है कि आज का कार्यक्रम, रेल बजट पर डिस्कशन 2.00 बजे बाद में लिया जाए, इसलिए सदन की कार्यवाही 2.00 बजे तक के लिए स्थगित की जाती है।

The House then adjourned for lunch at twenty-five minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at one minute past two of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

THE BUDGET (RAILWAYS), 2004-05

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, let us take up the general discussion on the Railway Budget for 2004-05. Shri Balbir K. Punj