

execution of projects. Most of the companies are built over the years. Companies in existence for hundreds of years are now crumbled. There is a huge problem going on around this industry. This has to really support the nation building and is part of Atmanirbhar plan. So, until and unless the Government comes forward with some specific deliverables, it is going to be very difficult.

Hence, I request, through you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government to take necessary steps to support this industry. Thank you.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by Shri Reddy.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by Shri Reddy.

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by Shri Reddy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. The issue can be discussed elaborately during the General Discussion on the Budget, because it is connected with that. You have raised the issue; it is okay.

Now, Shri Tiruchi Siva. Dr. Thambidurai to associate with it. Both of you have to share time.

Need for steps to be taken to tackle harassment of Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, on 19th January, 2021, four fishermen from Tamil Nadu reported missing. And, later, after four days, on 23rd January, 2021, it was reported by the Sri Lankan Navy that their bodies were found in the Palk Strait.

The contention of the Sri Lankan Navy was that boat of fishermen rammed into its vessel and hence the incident happened. But, it is actually not so. The fishermen were brutally attacked, killed and their catches have been taken away by the Sri Lankan Navy. This is not the first ever incident. We have been raising such issues in the House every now-and-then and fishermen in Tamil Nadu are compelled to quit their profession, because of harassment by the Sri Lankan Navy.

Thanks to the intervention of the hon. Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaishankar. The Ministry said that a strong demarche was made to the Sri Lankan

High Commissioner. But, it is not enough, because such incidents are happening for years together and our Government and the Ministry of External Affairs has taken note of it. But, nothing has happened.

Every day, when fishermen go out, their families are waiting whether they would return with their catch or their bodies would come back. Sir, the entire fishermen community in Tamil Nadu is not living in peace.

Sir, a strong condemnation or a quick and firm response from our Government should go. The Prime Minister should condemn, as our leader has requested, this incident. This should not happen again. I hope you will take this issue very seriously and give hope and confidence to the fishermen that nothing would happen henceforth when they go for fishing. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Thambidurai from Lok Sabha Chamber.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I am speaking from Lok Sabha Chamber.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You were in Lok Sabha. But, you came here to Rajya Sabha. But, I have sent you back to Lok Sabha for the time being.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Sir, even if you send me permanently to Lok Sabha, I am ready to sit here.

I thank you Mr. Chairman, Sir. As my colleague, Shri Siva said, I also join in condemning the act of Sri Lankan Navy attacking fishermen from Tamil Nadu. Sir, it is not just four people who were killed, but, Sir, 245 Tamil Nadu fishermen till now have been killed by the Sri Lankan Navy. This is a very grave situation taking place in that area.

They are arresting them and we are also bringing them back. But killing of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy is a condemnable thing. As I said, till now, about 245 fishermen have been killed by the Sri Lankan Navy. Recently also, one incident took place on 18th January in which four persons of Pudukottai district, Tamil Nadu were killed by the Sri Lankan Navy. I would also like to say that in this regard, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, has written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister requesting to take necessary action on the Sri Lankan authorities. Sir, on behalf of the AIADMK Party, the Tamil Nadu Government and also the Tamil Nadu fishermen, I condemn the Sri Lankan Navy for doing these kinds of atrocities and killing our fishermen. This is going to affect the relationship between

India and Sri Lanka. Therefore, I request the External Affairs Minister to take necessary action to see that our Prime Minister condemns these kinds of activities.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN: Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI N.R. ELANGO (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI A. MOHAMMEDJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI RAMJI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ASHOK SIDDHARTH (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Jaishankarji, do you want to say anything? ...*(Interruptions)*.. Please, please. Those who want to associate can send their names. This is an issue going on for long and it is not that nothing has been done. Successive Governments have been doing their best, but the problem must be

resolved once and for all. That is the suggestion of the hon. Members and I hope the Minister will take note of it.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. JAISHANKAR): Sir, we have taken it up in the strongest terms with the Sri Lankan Government. This particular incident, I think, was, particularly, unacceptable and that has been made very, very clear to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Dr. Sasmit Patra. You are speaking in Odiya.

Need for initiatives for socio-political-economic empowerment of women

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): * "Sir, I am thankful to our hon. Chairman for giving me the opportunity to speak in Odia. Whatever work we might have done for women empowerment is not enough.

Sir, I would like to present three main points in clear terms and submit two proposals through you for the consideration of the Government which might become a revolutionary programme for the cause of women empowerment. First of all, for the social and economic empowerment, we should consider chalking out a plan and let me give a brief background of the same. In Odisha, there is a revolutionary programme called 'Mission Shakti' under which 80 Lakh women are being empowered. Through this programme they have been able to change their lives. I believe, the way the Central Government has come up with National Maternity Scheme, modeled after MAMATA Yojana of Odisha, on similar line, Mission Shakti can also be emulated for formulating a women empowerment programme at the Central level. In Mission Shakti, economic empowerment of women is being ensured through Self Help Groups which has revolutionized their lives and livelihood.

Secondly, I would conclude by saying that there is ample scope and requirement for political empowerment of women as well. My leader hon. Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, has been repeatedly demanding for the passage of Women's Reservation Bill. However, the Central Government is obfuscating the issue. I strongly believe that there is a pressing need to pass the Women's Reservation Bill. In recent past, our Hon'ble Chief Minister Sh. Naveen Patnaik took a bold decision to reserve 1/3 rd Lok Sabha seat from the party for women.

I believe that these two proposals, adoption of Mission Shakti as a national programme and passage of Women's Reservation Bill, would go a long way in socio -

* English translation of the original speech delivered in Odia.