

Concern over problems faced by the Tamil Nadu fishermen

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue of the safety and livelihood of fishermen from Tamil Nadu.

The Indian fishermen are being arrested from time to time by the Sri Lankan authorities while fishing in international waters. The incidents of attacks and arrest of fishermen are going on unabated. Their fishing nets, vessels and other implements are being destroyed. Such incidents are increasing at an alarming rate. In the incident happened on 14th January, 2024, the Sri Lankan Navy arrested 10 fishermen and seized their trawler. Just a day earlier, on 13th January, 2024, 12 fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy.

Moreover, the Sri Lankan Navy has arrested 23 Indian fishermen and seized two trawlers for allegedly poaching in the island nation's waters. Just a few days ago, the Sri Lanka Navy conducted a special operation to chase away Indian poaching trawlers from Sri Lankan waters on the night of February 3, 2024. The operation resulted in the seizure of 2 Indian trawlers and the apprehension of 23 Indian nationals poaching in the northern waters of Sri Lanka.

The fishermen's activity should be treated with humanitarian and livelihood concerns. I request the Government that this issue may be taken up through diplomatic channels for their immediate release and the release of the vessels, boats, fishing nets, and other implements.

I urge the Government to find a permanent solution to this perennial problem.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS — *Contd.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Further discussion on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address. Now, Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara. Madam, be brief.

श्रीमती रमिलाबेन बेचारभाई बारा (गुजरात): सर, मेरे पास कितना समय है?

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much time do you want? You are always very reasonable.

श्रीमती रमिलाबेन बेचारभाई बारा : सर ,जब तक खत्म नहीं होता ,तब तक समय दे दीजिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. You take five minutes.