

Regarding safe release of fishermen arrested by Sri Lankan Navy

SUSHRI S. JOTHIMANI (KARUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. I want to register in this House the injustice faced by fishermen of Tamil Nadu when the Sri Lankan Navy tried to arrest them today morning in international sea waters. I wish to bring this to the notice of Hon Union Minister for Foreign Affairs. Today morning when the Sri Lankan Navy tried to illegally arrest four fishermen from Tamil Nadu, one fisherman had fallen into the sea and said to be died. One more fisherman is said to be missing. Two fishermen were arrested by Sri Lankan Navy. They have confiscated 10 Indian fishing boats. The sufferings of the sisters who lost their dear ones are immeasurable and unbearable. This is not the first incident of such an arrest. Illegal and unjust arrests of fishermen from Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy continue to take place very often. So far during the last 8 months, 250 fishermen from Tamil Nadu have been arrested by Sri Lankan Navy. On several occasions in the past, many fishermen from Tamil Nadu arrested by Sri Lankan Navy have died in a suspicious manner. Fishing boats are a means of their livelihood which are confiscated by the Sri Lankan Navy. More than a hundred fishermen from Tamil Nadu have been languishing in the prisons of Sri Lanka even today. The families of such fishermen are in distress. As usual, the BJP Government at the Centre is ignoring the tears and sufferings of our fishermen from Tamil Nadu. This shows the weakness of the BJP Government in power and their apathy towards our fishermen from Tamil Nadu. The Joint Action Group between India and Sri Lanka had met only five times so far and the last meeting of that Group was held in the year 2022. If the situation is such, how will we get justice? I urge that the Union Minister of Foreign Affairs should immediately intervene in this issue and ensure the safe release of Tamil fishermen arrested by Sri Lankan Navy besides releasing the confiscated boats which are in the custody of the Navy of the neighbouring country. Moreover, Union Government should take remedial action for getting justice on the killing of these deceased fishermen besides providing compensation to the distressed families. I also request the Indian Government to ensure proper action through the Sri Lankan Government in arresting the erring Sri Lankan Navy personnel engaged in such atrocities.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : श्रीमती शांभवी ? उपस्थित नहीं ।

श्री कीर्ति आज़ाद ? उपस्थित नहीं ।

श्रीमती कलाबेन मोहनभाई देलकर ? उपस्थित नहीं ।

श्री करण भूषण सिंह ? उपस्थित नहीं ।

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