

Regarding reported arrest of Tamil fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy

SHRI T. R. BAALU (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Sir, I want to draw your attention to the plight of the fishermen, especially in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Actually, last year in 2024, more than 528 incidents took place. This year, within 40 days, more than 77 incidents have taken place. The Sri Lankan Navy coerced the fishermen, took away their proceeds and put them under detention.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: What is your demand? Please put your demand.

SHRI T. R. BAALU: You have to allow me to speak, Sir. Please do not be in a hurry. You should allow the hon. Member to speak.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I have already given time. This is the tradition.

SHRI T. R. BAALU: I am speaking for the people.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You can only associate.

SHRI T. R. BAALU: Sir, last year, more than 528 such incidents took place. And this year, within 40 days, more than 77 incidents have also taken place. The Sri Lankan Navy entered our waters and they shot the people. On 27th, they had shot two fishermen. And on 8th February, they have detained more than 14 people; The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu written to hon. Minister of External Affairs, Dr. Jaishankar. Still, 216 fisherboats and 97 fishermen are still in the custody of Sri Lanka. The Government of India is not doing anything. They are simply looking at it. Both the fishing communities in Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu should be taken together, as it happened in November 2016, so that they can discuss the issue themselves. If the Government is not able to settle the issue, let them settle it themselves.