

**Title: Regarding arrest of sixty Tamil fishermen and confiscation of their boats by Sri Lankan Navy.**

**\*SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (NAGAPATTINAM):** Hon. Chairman Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House what has happened to our Indian fishermen particularly Tamil fishermen living in my constituency yesterday. The Sri Lankan Navy has captured and took away 60 of our fishermen and 11 of our fishing boats from our Indian seas yesterday.

I would like to bring to your notice again that this particular atrocity against our fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy is continuing for the past many years now. These are fishermen from Tamil Nadu and it is to be noted that they are our Indian nationals.

When this is happening for so many years now and so many of our fishermen have lost their lives and property at the hands of the Sri Lankan Navy in our Indian waters why the Government of India is remaining a mute spectator? More than 100 of our fishermen have been shot dead by the Sri Lankan Navy. Heavy loss of property and damage to our vessels have been caused. I cannot understand why our Tamil fishermen are meted out with a step motherly treatment at the hands of the Centre when their lives are at peril when they pursue their occupation to catch fishes in their traditional fishing areas. I want to know what is it that our External Affairs Ministry, our Defence Ministry particularly Indian Navy and our Coastal Guards are doing. Why do they ignore the safety and security of Indian fishermen in that part of our country? The fishermen from Tamil Nadu are also Indian nationals. Is there not a responsibility that lies with the Centre? At a time when drought is hitting hard that part of our country, at a time when death due to hunger is becoming a common thing there, these poor hapless fishermen are facing grave danger in carrying out their traditional occupation.

In my Nagapattinam constituency there is a fishermen village called Akkaraipettai. About 60 fishermen in 11 fishing boats left for fishing in the high seas yesterday. But they have been brutally assaulted and captured and taken away by Sri Lankan Navy. This is not the first time it is happening. Already there are 4 fishermen and 4 fishing boats taken away by Sri Lankan Navy still languishing in the Sri Lankan prisons for over 170 days now. Though it was brought to the notice of our beloved Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister they have not been released as yet. I would like to know when will there be a full stop to all this. When will the Centre initiate appropriate action? I would like to know through you when will the Union Government take suitable action to save the interests of our fishermen in our Indian territory.

I urge upon the Union Government to ensure the safety and security of our fishermen and create a conducive atmosphere to enable our fishermen to carry out their traditional occupation for earning their livelihood.

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\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

**श्री राजेश रंजन उर्फ पप्पू यादव (पूर्णिमा) :** महोदय, हमारा सबसे पहला नोटिस है (व्यवधान)

**सभापति महोदय :** सभी माननीय सदस्यों को बोलने का मौका मिलेगा, कोई नहीं बचेगा।

**श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव (झंझारपुर) :** महोदय, सवाल की महत्ता को देखना चाहिए। (व्यवधान)

**सभापति महोदय :** बारी-बारी से सब को मौका मिलेगा।

(व्यवधान)

**सभापति महोदय :** आप जितना समय बर्बाद करते हैं, उसमें सब को समय मिल जायेगा।

...(व्यवधान)