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Title: Reported killings of Fishermen on sea border of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (NAGERCOIL): Sir with due consternation it deserves, I would like to invite the concerted attention of the Government to the depth of panic and tension gripping the fishermen in the coastal villages of Tamil Nadu, following the continuing attacks and firing on the fishermen in the mid-seas.

The pinnacle of such dastardly attack is firing at the fishermen hamlets in Kanyakumari District and killing five of them on 29.3.2007, prefixed by killing one from Vedaranyam of Ramnad District, suffixed by various incidents of kidnapping, assaulting the unarmed fishermen injuring them seriously. The fate of 21 fishermen from Kodimunai village of Kanyakumari set on sail for fishing and were kidnapped on 3.3.07 is yet to be known.

All these atrocities are perpetrated without any provocation by the fishermen who are fishing well within Indian waters, never crossing the maritime boundaries.

Protests are duly expressed by millions of fishermen, by organizing demonstration. The entire people of the District observed peaceful hartal etc; resolutions were passed unanimously in Tamil Nadu Assembly and letters were addressed to the Central Government, imploring immediate intervention in the matter. Solatium of Rs. 5 lakh for each killed in firing was sanctioned by the Tamil Nadu Government. Demand was raised by all the political parties urging the Government to address the issue in SAARC summit.

As such a prompt and studied Report is anticipated with regard to the action taken by the Government, as to whether any reference has been made and dialogue initiated with the Sri Lankan government, as to whether the Government has made any attempt to locate the deriders, and as to the steps contemplated by the Government to stop such atrocities in future and to ensure safety and security of the fishermen with details about the solatium yet to be announced by the Central Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Sir, we, from the DMK Party, want to associate with this important issue. We want that the Central Government should intervene immediately in this matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All those Members who want to be associated with this matter may please send their names.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have not even taken the trouble of giving a notice. However, I am allowing your name to be associated. That is enough.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The names of Shri A. Krishnaswamy, Shri E. Ponnuswamy, Dr. C. Krishnan, Shri Ravichandran Sippiparai and Dr. K. Manoj may be associated with the matter raised by Shri A.V. Bellarmin.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, your matter does not come within the Government's purview. It comes under the purview of the Election Commission.