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Title: Need to ensure safety and security of Indian fishermen in deep sea in view of alleged statement made by the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Thank you, Madam. The controversial and unfortunate statement made by the Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Shri Ranil Wickramasinghe, remarks that Indian fishermen may be shot if they intrude into Sri Lankan waters. This has stoked strong apprehensions among the fishermen community across the coastal areas.

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): Madam, I had also raised this issue yesterday in the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, I know about it. Yesterday only you had raised it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: The statement, which he justified later suggests that : "if someone tries to break into my house, I can shoot. If he gets killed, law allows me to do that". It is a threatening statement to the fishermen community that is trying to make both ends meet by engaging in fishing. That statement is unfortunate. The Government should take adequate measures to ensure the safety and security of fishermen community in Indian waters. The Government should facilitate the release of Sri Lankan fishermen straying into the Indian waters, and also ensure that Indian fishermen and their boats are released by Sri Lanka.

The present remarks by the Sri Lankan Prime Minister pose a threat and also hurt the feelings of fishermen across the country.

Madam, our hon. Prime Minister is in Sri Lanka today. I think the apprehension among the people of India will be expressed by the hon. Prime Minister to his Sri Lankan counterpart.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Madam, we want to associate.

HON. SPEAKER: All of you are permitted to associate with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): The Prime Minister who will be in Sri Lanka can bring it to the notice of President Maithripala Sirisena so that it will be helpful, and the issue could be resolved peacefully.

HON. SPEAKER: Adv. Joice George, Shri Sankar Prasad Datta, Dr. K. Kamaraj and Dr. P. Venugopal are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri K.C. Venugopal.