

an>

Title:Regarding reported statement made by Minister of External Affairs on Tamil fishermen.

SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL): I express my deep concern over the recent statement of the hon. External Affairs Minister, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj for warning the Indian fishermen in Tamil Nadu not to trespass into the territorial waters of Sri Lanka. It is unfortunate that such statements will encourage Sri Lankan Navy to continue their brutal attacks against innocent Indian fishermen, even while they are fishing in our territory.

It will also justify all their previous inhuman attacks, which had claimed several hundred lives of Indian fishermen, and capturing of their fishing boats and equipments. No other country in the world resort to such brutal attacks on fishermen of their neighbouring countries.

This is because of the fact that fishermen generally meet their both ends by venturing into the sea and they are very poor. Under these conditions, such warnings against helpless fishermen will only endanger the livelihood, particularly in Tamil Nadu.

Therefore, I urge the Government to treat this issue seriously and take effective measures to ensure protection of Indian fishermen struggling for their day to day livelihood in deep sea at least in future.