

**Title:** Need to take measures to protect the interests of fishermen of Tamil Nadu from assault by Sri Lankan Navy.

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI): Sir, I bring to the notice of the Union Government the alleged killings of Tamil Nadu fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy.

For the past several years, we have been pleading with the Government to take appropriate action to save our fishermen. But unfortunately, the firing from Sri Lankan side is continuing. The problem for our fishermen began after Kachathivu island was given to Sri Lanka in 1974. Though Kachathivu was given to Sri Lanka, the agreement entered into by both India and Sri Lanka protected the traditional fishing rights of Tamil Nadu fishermen. But for the last over ten years, there has been firing upon our fishermen from Sri Lankan side whenever they go for fishing. Many innocent fishermen have been killed so far. Several fishermen have been injured seriously. Many fishing boats have been damaged. It is a pity that our fishermen are attacked in Indian waters.

The Sri Lankan Government should be requested to respect the 1974 agreement in letter and spirit. The Indian Navy should give protection to our fishermen whenever they go for fishing. Since fishing is the question of life and death for our fishermen, I appeal to the Government of India to take necessary action to protect their livelihood and should find a permanent solution to save the fishermen of Tamil Nadu.