

दीघलवांक और फुलवारिया—नेपाल की तरफ चले गए हैं। हमारे लोग वहाँ फसल बोते हैं, लेकिन वे लोग (नेपाली) काट कर ले जाते हैं। इसलिए वहाँ सब का जो काम शुरू हुआ था, जिसमें हमने पैसा दिया है, वह काम किस हद तक हुआ है और आगे क्या होने वाला है। यह बड़ा गम्भीर मसला है—इसलिए मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस पर कितना पैसा खर्च हुआ है और कितना काम आगे बढ़ा है ?

श्री पी० बी० नरसिंह राव : यह इस सवाल से सम्बन्धित नहीं है, लेकिन मैं इस का जवाब पहले भी सदन में दे चुका हूँ कि सर्वेक्षण का काम कहां तक हुआ है, कितना बाकी है और कहां-कहां कुछ कठिनाइयाँ आई हैं। लेकिन जो तफसील मांगी गई है, वह इस वक्त मेरे पास नहीं है। मैं उनको बाद में बतला सकता हूँ।

Fishermen Missing from South Coast

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*579. SHRI N. DENNIS :

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of a number of fisherman on the South Coast of India missing have been occurring frequently in recent-months; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b) A number of Indian fishermen have been apprehended in recent months by the Sri Lankan authorities for allegedly transgressing Sri Lankan waters.

As soon as information about the apprehension of Indian fishing boats by the Sri Lankan authorities is received our High Commission at Colombo immediately takes up with the former the question of release

of the boats along with their skippers and crew members.

Out of a total number of 8 fishing vessels apprehended till the end of March 1984, the crew member of the two vessels 'Florida' RM 441 and 'Prima' 641 have already been released along with their skippers and crew members.

As of 30th March, 1984, 6 boats were detained by the Sri Lankan authorities. The skippers of all the boats are on bail in Jaffna. The crew members of all these 6 boats, except RM 111, have already return to India. The crew members of RM 111 are expected to return to India shortly. The Sri Lankan authorities have also agreed to release two of the remaining 6 boats.

Our High Commission at Colombo is actively pursuing these matters in order to expedite release of the remaining vessels along with their skippers.

SHRI N. DENNIS : With regard to the information furnished in the answer regarding the apprehension of Indian fishing vessels and crew members and the steps taken by our Government regarding their release, I would like to point out that ever since the agreement between Sri Lanka and India regarding Kachativu some years ago, Sri Sankan Naval Guards in guise of patrolling operations penetrate into the Indian sea waters and loot Indian fishermen of their fish and prawn catches.

May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government would take early steps for bringing about an agreement the two Government to enable a free and peaceful fishing by fishermen of both countries in the narrow sea waters dividing India and Sri Lanka to maintain peace and tranquility in that area and also to bring about a permanent settlement on this issue ?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : The terms of the 1974 agreement are there for anyone to see. They need to be implemented strictly.

What is happening is that our fishermen seem to be straying into waters which are

claimed by Sri Lanka and it is there that they are apprehended.

Similarly, some Sri Lankan fishermen also are straying into our waters and there have been cases where we have apprehended them.

This is more a matter of not knowing so well the boundary in the vast expanse of the sea. We have been trying to see if some visible buoys etc. can be made to float round about the boundary line. But, I am told, that it is very expensive.

Meanwhile, we are also strengthening our coast guard so that proper warnings can be given in time.

These are some of the measures that are being contemplated.

But I have not come across so far any case where Sri Lanka authorities have crossed into Indian waters and apprehended our fishermen.

It has been more a case of straying into each other's waters.

So this question which has been raised by the hon. Members is of a different kind.

We have not come across any concrete instance where it has been alleged that Sri Lanka authorities have deliberately crossed into our waters and apprehended our fishermen or have otherwise harassed them.

SHRI N. DENNIS : There are frequent reports in press regarding this aspect and representations have also been made to Government regarding this matter.

Another point which I would like to make is that in violation of international law and principles in the usage of sea waters, foreign fishing vessels and other vessels intrude and interfere in our sea waters and carry on fishing operations. There are frequent occurrences of snatching away of fishing nets and other utensils and there are also reports of loss of life of fishermen. The strength of our coast guards is not adequate to cover the extensive

territorial waters and the equipment is also not adequate. May I know from the hon. Minister, in the interest of national security and also to protect our fishermen, whether the Government would implement the proposed massive plan to modernise coast guards and take other effective steps to protect the life and properties of fishermen?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I have just submitted that we understand that a plan for strengthening the coast guard is under consideration, and it will be implemented. I do not know how massive it will be because at the moment it happens to be inadequate, and given the long coastline that India has, if it has to be massive, I think it will have to be manifold and I am not sure whether it is going to be possible within one Five-Year Plan. But I am sure that the intention of the Government is to progressively strengthen the coast guard. Meanwhile, whatever incidents occur, of the kind referred to in the question, we will have to deal with them on a case-to-case basis. If the hon. Member has any cases where he thinks that certain transgressions have taken place, he may kindly bring them to my notice and I will certainly take action.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : All these cases were reported and I am glad that the hon. Minister has taken prompt action in taking up these cases, particularly in the case of Prima, Krishna and Chaffco—all these were apprehended and the Government of India actually took up all these cases. But I would like to know whether it is a question of exploiting the fishes in the economic zone. You know, there is a dispute in the international law regarding the extent. I want to know whether you have got any firm agreement with the Sri Lankan Government as to the extent of the economic zone. This is number one. Secondly, it is possible that in many cases these fishermen may not be responsible; because of bad weather conditions, they stray. It is seen that, when they are apprehended, for two or three months they have to stay there, their families suffer and all that. You must maintain the best of relations with our neighbours, Sri Lanka. Is the Government

thinking of imparting training to our fishermen as to the rules of international law so that, if they are well trained, they will not transgress and put them into difficult conditions ?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : To the extent this can be done, it is already being done. But the point is, it is an economic problem; it is not so much a problem of knowing or not knowing the international law. They have been in the habit of going right upto Katchatheevu. In 1974 this agreement came and then they were told that they could not go and fish there. It is difficult to make them understand that because of an agreement, hence forward they would not be allowed to go. They know it. But there are some stray cases of their going to the other side and being apprehended. On the whole, they are observing it. Only when they are not able to observe it for any reason, including reasons of weather, this is being done, there apprehensions are taking place. After all, it is only eight vessels, out of which four have been released now; only four are remaining with them. It is not a very large number considering that for such a long time this has been going on. So, at any given time there will be four or five or six like that with them. These would have to be taken up necessarily on a case to case basis.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : What is the extent of our economic zone ?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : That has been decided.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : What is the territorial water limit according to international law between that country and our country ?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : All that has been settled. The point is that there are some areas which are closer to Sri Lanka but fall within our jurisdiction. Kachathivu has now fallen into their jurisdiction. So we have to know where our area is and if these boats cannot go to that area, we will have to think of enabling our own fishermen to have trawlers and so

on so that they could do some deep-sea fishing in our area which is a little distant from our coast. So, as a result of the new situation, certain new steps will have to be taken and these steps are being contemplated.

SHRI A.T. PATIL : The law of the sea has recently been promulgated and I think Sri Lanka is also a party to that law. There the contours of the economic zone and the rights of fishing have been well defined. But may I know whether the Government would explore the possibility of having a bilateral agreement between the two countries in view of the geographical situation so as to confer upon the fishermen of both the countries a mutual right to fish in the concerned waters between the two countries ?

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Overlapping area.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Bilateral action in pursuance of the law of the sea has not started. Actually, the law of the sea is still in the finalisation stage. So when it is finalised and when internationally it is accepted by all countries, they will enter into bilateral relations. That will be done only when it is finalised.

J and K not Shown as Indian State in West German Maps

*580. **SHRI B.V. DESAI :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the West German maps ignoring Jammu & Kashmir as Indian State was recently published;

(b) whether all the four maps in Annual Report of the Federal Government separate the State from India by an international boundary;

(c) whether they have drawn a broken line between the J & K and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government thereto; and