

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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## LOK SABHA

Tuesday, August 9, 1960/Sravana 18,  
1882 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Ceylon Navy Patrol

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- \*239. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:  
Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:  
Shri A. M. Tariq:  
Shri Naval Prabhakar:  
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:  
Shri N. R. Muniswamy:  
Shri Raghunath Singh:  
Shri Achar:  
Shri S. A. Mehdi:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ceylon Navy Patrol and Indian fishermen clashed recently in Katcha Thivu Island between India and North Ceylon;

(b) if so, whether any protest has been made by the Indian High Commissioner in Ceylon; and

(c) whether any other similar incidents have taken place?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan):** (a) No actual clash has occurred but some harassment was caused to Indian fishermen when two Indian fishing-boats anchored off one of the Islands of Adam's

Bridge on 20th April, 1960 and were towed to Talaimanar by the Ceylon Navy, presumably on suspicion of carrying illicit immigrants. They were, however, released by the Ceylon Civil Authorities after interrogation. The incident did not occur in or near Katcha Thivu Islands.

(b) A note was sent to Ceylon Government requesting them to institute necessary enquiries into the circumstances that led to the incident.

(c) Reports have been received from Madras of two minor encounters in the Palk Straits between Ceylon Police patrols and Indian fishing parties. There were no serious incidents.

**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** May I know whether this Island is within our jurisdiction? Is it in India or Ceylon?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Nothing occurred in the Island. It occurred in the high seas.

**Shri Tangamani:** This incident occurred between Katcha Thivu Island and North Ceylon. We would like to know whether the Ceylon Government are claiming that Island as their own?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I think there is some controversy about it.

**Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:** May I know whether it is not a fact that the Katcha Thivu Island belonged to the Ramanathapuram Samasthanam and the Ceylon Government are contesting that claim?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Ramanathapuram Samasthanam is a zamindari;

it is not a State. If it is a zamindari it is a matter for the courts to settle it.

**Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:** Ramathapuram Samasthanam has been taken over by the Government of Madras under the Zamindari Abolition Act. So, it is the Madras State that owns the Katcha Thivu Island.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I understand that question. Whether the zamindari is owned by the Samasthanam or the State, it continues to be a zamindari; it does not become something else.

**Mr. Speaker:** All that the hon. Member means is that it is part of India and not part of Ceylon.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** That is the matter in controversy.

**Shri N. R. Muniswamy:** May I know whether any enquiry has been held as to the exact position and also whether these fishing boats carried illicit immigrants to Ceylon?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** They did not reach Ceylon. The Ceylon Government is naturally anxious to prevent illegal immigrants and when they see people in small boats, fishing or other, they suspect. They go to enquire. The suspicion may not be justified but that is how these small incidents occur.

**Shri Tangamani:** It was stated that two fishing boats were taken by the Ceylon Navy to Talaimanar. We would like to know whether there were any illicit immigrants going from India to Ceylon in that particular boat?

**Shri Sadath Ali Khan:** No, Sir.

**Shri Tangamani:** May I know whether apart from the incidents during the 20th April and the first week of May, there were any more instances during June and July?

**Shri Sadath Ali Khan:** Not that I know of.

**Shri Vajpayee:** May I know when the Ceylon Government laid its claim to this Island, what steps have been taken to settle this controversy in favour of India?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I cannot say the exact date. Personally, I have seen papers in connection with it for over a year; may be more than that.

**श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस वक्त इस द्वीप पर काबिज़ कौन है ?

**श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू :** मैं तो नहीं कह सकता कि यह काबिज़ होने की निशानी क्या है। ये छोटे छोटे टापू वहाँ थे समुन्द्र के बीच में, जिस की निस्बत मैं ने कहा है कि कुछ बहस है सीलोन की गवर्नमेंट में और हमारी गवर्नमेंट में, यानी मद्रास की गवर्नमेंट में। क्या वहाँ इस वक्त होता है, कोई रहता भी है या नहीं, मुझ पता नहीं है।

**श्री ज. पाल्नी ह :** यह किन के कब्जे में है ?

**श्री ज. लाल नेहरू :** मैं ने इस का जवाब दिया है। इस वक्त मैं नहीं कह सकता कि किस का कब्जा है। मुमकिन है कि वहाँ कोई शरूस भी न हो।

**Shri Vajpayee:** It is very surprising that the Prime Minister does not know whether there is any people living there or whether we are in possession of that Island. If there is any controversy the Government should make its stand clear.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** That is true. If a question has been put about it, I will find out the facts. This question was about an incident. Therefore, I am sorry I am unable to give the exact details. I know this controversy about it but I do not know more at present.