

Seventeenth Loksabha

an&gt;

Title: Issue regarding attacks on Tamil Fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy.

**\*SHRI S. VENKATESAN (MADURAI):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, Vanakkam. I wish to bring to the notice of this august House about the issue of fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu, time and again, being attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy. The Union Government has not intervened on this issue. Particularly when Gujarati fishermen were attacked by Pakistan maritime forces at a place off the coast of Okha in Dwarka district of Gujarat some months ago, the Union Government immediately condemned the attack. Not only that the Officials of the Pakistani High Commission were summoned before the Indian authorities and the condemnation was duly conveyed to them. I wish to place this on record in this august House.

During the last 10 years, as many as 12 Tamil fishermen have been attacked and killed by the Sri Lankan Navy. Several other Tamil fishermen have been languishing in the jails of Sri Lanka. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has written to the Union Government in October 2021 seeking the intervention of Union Government in this regard. But the Union Government has not at all intervened in this matter so far. No FIR has been registered. The Union Government has not summoned the higher officials of the Sri Lankan Embassy and conveyed the condemnation as regards the attacks on Tamil fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy. Why is there such a partiality shown by the Union Government between the Gujarat fishermen and Tamil fishermen? Why are you handling matters with Pakistan and Sri Lanka with different yardsticks? I strongly condemn this. The fishing rights of the Tamil

fishermen should be completely restored. It should be ensured. I wish to urge upon the Union Government to put a full stop to the attacks orchestrated by the Sri Lankan Navy on innocent Tamil fishermen. Thank you for this opportunity.

**माननीय सभापति:** श्री अनिल फिरोजिया जी ।

... (व्यवधान)

**माननीय सभापति:** श्री नारायणभाई काछड़िया ।