

Regarding arrest of Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy.-laid

SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI):Sixteen fishermen along with their two Mechanised fishing boats were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on 12th March 2023. These two boats belongs to Akkaraipettai in Nagapattinam District and Kottaipattinam in Aranthangi Assembly Constituency of Pudukkottai District fishermen. This is the third incident of attack / arrest of Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy within a month. They are solely dependent on their fishing activity for their livelihood. Such Incidents also create fear psychosis in their minds. Government of Tamil Nadu took up these issues time and again with the Union Government but such incidents continue to take place. As of now, 102 fishing boats of Tamil Nadu are under their custody and six fishing boats which were released by Sri Lanka are yet to be repatriated to India.

I shall, therefore, humbly urge upon the Union Minister of External Affairs to kindly intervene in the matter and ensure that the traditional fishing rights of our fishermen are protected permanently and such incidents do not recur in future. Further, necessary diplomatic steps may be initiated to secure early release of all sixteen fishermen and 102 fishing boats apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy.