

**Title:** Regarding killing of Tamil fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, with pain and agony, I draw the attention of the House towards the killing of our own Indian fishermen, our Tamil fishermen, in our own territorial waters by the Sri Lankan Navy, which has become the order of the day. Since 1974, nearly thousand times, our fishermen have been attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy and killed in the sea when they were fishing.

Sir, 48 hours ago, near Pamban, our fishermen were attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy when they opened fire. Four of our fishermen escaped by swimming and by hiding themselves. ...(*Interruptions*)

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\*Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vaiko, normally, the procedure in the 'Zero Hour' is that you can take only two minutes. There are other Members also to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAIKO : The other Members have taken a lot of time for other issues. How many minutes have they swallowed here? This is a very serious matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, when they go for fishing, they are risking their lives due to storm and cyclone. Even today there is a cyclone. When they go for fishing to earn their livelihood, risking their lives, till they reach sea-shore, the family members are afraid whether they will come back from the sea or not. So, at this situation, our fishermen are killed by the Sri Lankan Navy. Unless the Government takes a very stern view, condemn the killing and gives a stern warning to the Sri Lankan Government, this will not be stopped.

Sir, one *Muniaswamy* was killed. Now, the family is in tears. We have got the right to fish in *Kachchatheevu*. Of course, it was very unfortunate when *Kachchatheevu*, which belonged to our country, was given to Sri Lanka on a platter by the then Congress Government.

Now, Sri Lankan Naval Chief came and had discussions with our Naval Chief. Our Navy and Coast Guard are also there. If they take some stern action, then they will never dare to come over here.

Sir, a tiny country is challenging the mighty Navy of this country. It is a question of honour of the country when a citizen is killed by another country's Navy. It is going on everyday. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA): What is the conclave between hon. Shri Vaiko and hon. Minister, Shri George Fernandes? The issue of protection of fishermen should be looked into immediately. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is the problem. One Member is raising the issue and others Members are contradicting it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAIKO : The Government of India should take up the issue with the Sri Lankan Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to speak now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member. Our hon. Chief Minister has already written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister on this issue. ...(*Interruptions*) I urge upon the Government to take stern action against the Sri Lankan Navy...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Palanimanickam, you can associate yourself with Shri Vaiko...(*Interruptions*)