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Title: Reported attack on Indian fishermen near Rameshwaram.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (RAMANATHAPURAM): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am going to raise a very important issue of macro level importance, whereas we are discussing an issue of State level importance. ...(*Interruptions*) I am raising a problem of international level. It is an international problem concerning two countries, India, particularly Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. This is an issue relating to the fishermen. As far as I am concerned, I am hailing from an area where the fishermen are very dear and near to me. The fishermen were taken into custody, they have been captured and their boats have been impounded. These people have been ill-treated, and they have been injured by Sri Lanka. With the result a serious situation has arisen because of which there was a big *hartal*.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What do you want the Central Government to do?

SHRI K. MALAISAMY : This issue was raised in the Rajya Sabha and an assurance was given by the former External Affairs Minister that he would take care of it. Apart from that, our Chief Minister has taken up the matter with the Indian High Commission and also with the Prime Minister. With the result, some of them have been released. This issue has been raised several times and assurances were often given, but nothing has been done about it.

I want a permanent solution. ...(*Interruptions*) Katchathivu which is very close to Rameshwaram should be retrieved and our fishermen right should be protected. The Indian Government should take up the issue with the Sri Lankan Government in order to find a permanent solution. A perpetual lease for safeguarding the fishing rights of fishermen as a temporary measure should be taken up. ...(*Interruptions*)