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Title: Regarding attack on Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy.

SHRI C. RAJENDRAN (CHENNAI SOUTH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring the following matter of urgent public importance to the notice of the Government for necessary action.

This is an issue concerning the safety and well-being of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu. The Tamilian fishermen are now being attacked almost once in a week by the Sri Lankan Navy without any provocation. The Tamilian fishermen are pursuing their traditional occupation of fishing to earn their livelihood but they are being attacked and captured, and their vessels are also taken away.

Even last month, five fishermen were captured from Thangachimadam near Rameswaram and they are harassed. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Amma had taken up this issue with the hon. Prime Minister of India through various letters. But, so far, the attacks on the Indian Tamil fishermen did not stop and they are continuing.

Therefore, I urge the Government of India to view these attacks on Tamil fishermen as a national issue and not as an isolated problem concerning Tamil Nadu alone.

In a federal set up, all the States are a part of the Indian Union. Hence, the Tamil fishermen issue is an issue concerning the Indian Union. I, therefore, request the Government to seriously take it up with the Sri Lankan authorities so that the attacks on the fishermen are stopped forthwith.