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Tilte: Regarding reported capturing of Tamil fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy.

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGOVA (CHENNAI NORTH): Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you for the opportunity given to me to raise an important issue in this House....(*Interruptions*)

At the outset, while associating with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Leader of the Opposition about the killing of five CRPF Jawans, I want to raise an important issue about the Tamil fishermen....(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*) *
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SHRI T.K.S. ELANGOVA : While associating with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Leader of the Opposition in the killing of five CRPF jawans, would like to raise an important issue about the Tamil fishermen who were arrested this morning. Yesterday about 20 Tamil fishermen from Rameshwaram were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy.

Today this morning, at Thangachi Mandabam, eight boats were captured by the Sri Lankan Navy and about 50 fishermen who were in those boats were arrested. Madam, this has been happening as a daily affair. I am sorry to say that. India being one of the biggest democracies in this part of the globe, but it is one of the weakest in protecting its own citizens. That is what has happened in Sri Lanka with regard to Rameshwaram fishermen and also the CRPF men in Kashmir.

Madam, many assurances were given by the Government that fishermen will be protected. But so far, they were not protected. This has become a daily affair. These Tamil fishermen are not going to capture the country; they are going to sea to capture fish. They don't know where the maritime boundary is. My question is, our Coast Guards must take necessary steps to protect the fishermen from being arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy. I don't know what our Coast Guards are doing. This has become a daily affair. I want the Government and the Minister to reply in this regard and give an assurance that no such incidents occur in future.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Shri Devji M. Patel,

Shrimati Bhavana Patil Gawali,

Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal,

Shri S.S. Ramasubbu,

Shri Shivkumar Udasi,

Shri Shivarama Gouda,

Shri Ramesh Viswanath Katti and

Shri Manicka Tagore are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri T.K.S. Elangovan.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI : Hon. Speaker, yesterday 19 Indian fishermen were arrested and four trawlers were seized by the Sri Lankan Navy. Today, also nearly 50 Indian Tamil fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing else will go on record.

(Interruptions) अँ

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI : Madam, I am raising a very serious matter.

Today also nearly 50 Indian Tamil fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy. This is not a new thing. This is regularly happening in Rameshwaram. Regarding this matter, our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has written many letters to the hon. Prime Minister and the concerned officials. What kind of action our Government at the Centre is taking to stop this kind of menace which is happening in Rameshwaram area? These Tamil fishermen are regularly going for fishing. They are doing fishing for centuries in that area. Just because we are raising Sri Lankan issue, now, Sri Lanka is behaving very harshly against India. Our Ministers are stating that Sri Lanka is a friendly country. Is this how a friendly country treat Indian Tamil fishermen, who do fishing for their livelihood?

If you take the recent statistics, nearly 800 Indian Tamil fishermen were killed by the Sri Lankan Navy. What our Navy is doing? Has our Navy arrested any single Sri Lankan fisherman? Let them give the statistics. Why is this partiality? This is how the Government of India protecting the rights of Indian Tamil fishermen. I am requesting the Central Government to take necessary action to release all the Indian Tamil fishermen arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy. Sri Lankan Navy are putting these Indian Tamil fishermen in prison. Is this how Sri Lanka should treat a friendly country like India? I would say that Sri Lanka is always acting against India. Therefore, in the name of friendliness, our Government must not shirk the responsibility. Hence, I reiterate that our Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has written a number of letters in this connection, on which, I would request the Central Government to take necessary action.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Shri Arjun Meghwal,

Shri P. Lingam,

Shri P.R. Natarajan,

Shri M.B. Rajesh,

Shri P.K. Biju,

Shri P. Karunakaran, Shri Shivkumar Udasi, Shri Shivarama Gouda, Shri Ramesh Viswanath Katti are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Dr. M. Thambidurai.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Madam, from the Chair you can order for a statement from the External Affairs Minister on this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा (हज़ारीबाग): महोदया, मुझे दो मिनट बोलने का समय दीजिए...*(व्यवधान)*

अध्यक्ष महोदया : वह हो गया। उसी पर बोल रहे हैं। आप उनसे सम्बद्ध कर लीजिए।

*अँ**(व्यवधान)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Do not disturb the House.

...(Interruptions)

