

an>

Title: Regarding release of Indian fishermen arrested by Sri Lankan Navy.

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN (CHENNAI SOUTH): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the august House an important issue regarding the string of unfortunate instances of apprehension and arrest of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy while peacefully pursuing their traditional livelihood in the Palk Bay.

In the latest incident, eight fishermen who set out for fishing in two mechanised fishing boats from Rameswaram fishing base in Ramanathapuram district and Jegathapattinam fishing village in Pudukottai district have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy in the early hours of 29.11.2015 and taken to Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka.

Our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister in this regard. Hence, the Ministry of External Affairs should immediately take up the matter with the Sri Lankan authorities in a concrete and decisive manner so as to secure the immediate release of 37 fishermen and 55 fishing boats including the eight fishermen and two fishing boats apprehended on 29.11.2015 and also expedite the return of four Indian fishermen and their motorised craft which drifted to the Sri Lankan shores on 8.11.2015 due to mechanical failure and remain still stranded there.