

an>

Title:Issue regarding frequent detention of Tamil fishermen by Sri Lankan navy during fishing activities.

□DR. K. GOPAL (NAGAPPATTINAM): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and our beloved leader Dr.Puratchithalaivi Amma has brought to the notice of Union Government about the detention of Tamil fishermen several times while they were engaged in fishing activities in Indian waters. Hon. Prime Minister is well aware of the case filed in Hon. Supreme Court regarding the Maritime Boundary dispute between India and Sri Lanka. The case challenging the constitutional validity of agreements of the years 1974 and 1976 entered into between India and Sri Lanka is with the Hon. Supreme Court. Tamil Nadu government under the leadership of Hon. Puratchithalaivi Amma has been implementing a scheme of subsidy - the first of its kind in the country- allowing the fishermen of Tamil Nadu to purchase fishing boats for deep sea fishing. This revolutionary scheme of providing subsidy up to Rs.30 lakh for deep sea fishing has been implemented successfully in the State of Tamil Nadu led by Hon. Puratchithalaivi Amma. Fishermen are trained with techniques involved in deep sea fishing. As many as 170 fishing boats meant for deep sea fishing are being built which will directly benefit around 581 families of fishermen in the State. Hon. Puratchithalaivi Amma has demanded financial assistance from the Union government for implementing a detailed project with a cost of Rs.1520 Crore and with an annual recurring subsidy of Rs.10 Crore for maintaining the infrastructure facilities and deep sea fishing. I therefore urge that the Union government should grant approval to this Scheme of the State Government of Tamil Nadu. As on date, 55 Indian fishing boats are kept in the custody of the Sri Lankan government. I also request that Hon. Prime Minister should issue orders to

the External Affairs Ministry to take up the issue seriously with the Government of Sri Lanka and ensure release of Indian fishing boats at the earliest. Thank you.