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Title: Permanent solution regarding arrest of fishermen and confiscation of their boats.

*SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir. Vanakkam. Thank you for this opportunity and for allowing me to speak in Tamil. Besides implementing several welfare schemes for fishermen, Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. *Puratchithalaivi* Amma is the saviour protecting the interests of Tamil fishermen. Time and again Sri Lankan Navy apprehends our Tamil fishermen. Hon Amma had written several letters to Hon Prime Minister to ensure safe and secured release of Tamil fishermen who are languishing in Sri Lankan jails. Sir, Indian fishermen are engaged in deep sea fishing in Palk Strait area upholding their traditional fishing rights. Claiming violation, Sri Lankan Navy personnel had detained 41 Tamil fishermen. Besides 56 fishing boats of these innocent fishermen are in the custody of Sri Lanka. Hon. Amma has written to Hon. Prime Minister for safe release of Tamil fishermen along with their fishing boats. Hon. Amma has stressed the need for encouraging deep sea fishing as the only way for finding a permanent solution to fishermen issues. Hon. Amma has been implementing a Scheme to provide fishing equipment to fishermen at a cost of Rs. 51.3 Crore with 50% subsidy. As demanded by Hon. Amma, the Union government should immediately allocate Rs 1520 Crore for developing deep sea fishing and infrastructure and an annual recurring grant of Rs 10 Crore for maintenance dredging. I urge the Union government to fulfil the demands of Hon Amma by securing safe release of 41 Tamil fishermen apprehended by Sri Lankan

Navy along with their 56 fishing boats. I also request you to expedite the return of four Indian fishermen and their motorized craft which was stranded on the Sri Lankan shores due to mechanical failure. The Union government should come forward to find a permanent solution to all issue relating to fishermen, as demand by Hon. Amma. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati V. Sathyabama is allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri K. Ashok Kumar.