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Title: Issue regarding abduction and harassment of Tamil fishermen by Srilankan Navy.

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN (CHENNAI SOUTH): Hon. Madam, Speaker, I would like to raise a very important issue and explain why our Members of Parliament are there in the Well of the House. Kindly permit me some time to make my submission...(*Interruptions*)

On behalf of our leader, hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, we wish to bring to your immediate attention, an extremely serious and disturbing incident, which occurred off the coast of Nagapattinam District of Tamil Nadu in the early hours of 17th November, 2016...(*Interruptions*)

The Sri Lankan Navy shot at the Indian fishermen who were engaged in their peaceful avocation of fishing in their traditional fishing waters in the Palk Bay. In the present incident, two fishermen sustained bullet injuries and have been admitted to hospital for treatment. Such an incident of firing has not occurred in the past several years and represents a major escalation in the manner in which the Sri Lankan Navy is dealing with an extremely sensitive livelihood issue of the Indian fishermen...(*Interruptions*)

It is learnt that one mechanized fishing vessel registered in Karaikal, Puducherry sailed out for fishing on 13th November, 2016 from the Karaikal fishing harbour. On 17th November, 2016, while the fishermen in the boat were fishing in their traditional fishing grounds, the Sri Lankan Navy fired indiscriminately at the innocent fishermen. In this shooting incident, two fishermen, namely, Thiru Aravinthan (age 20), s/o Anjappan of Nambiar Nagar, Nagapattinam District of Tamil Nadu and Thiru Dinesh alias Balamurugan (age 20), s/o Ramasamy of Karaikalmedu, Puducherry sustained bullet injuries. On return to the Indian shores, they were immediately taken to a hospital in Puducherry for medical treatment.

Madam, it is ironical that this incident has occurred just days after the talks between the fishermen of Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka, meant to find ways and means to enable the fishermen of both the sides to fish in a harmonious and peaceful manner, were held.

It may be recalled that there was also a high level Ministerial meeting between the External Affairs Minister and the Union Agriculture Minister of India and the Foreign Affairs Minister and the Fisheries Minister of Sri Lanka. In the Joint Press Release, after the Ministerial level talks between India and Sri Lanka were held on 5th November, 2016, it was specifically resolved as follows:

"Both Governments agreed to the request by the Fishermen Associations that there should be no violence and no loss of lives in the handling of fishermen by the Navies and Coast Guards of the two countries."

Despite this specific understanding reached at the Ministerial level, it is very unfortunate that an incident of firing on innocent Indian Tamil fishermen has taken place.

Clearly, the response from the Indian side to this incident has to be immediate and effective. We also reiterate the stand of our leader, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma that the Government of India should not treat the International Maritime Boundary Line with Sri Lanka as a settled question...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri V. Sathyabama and

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. J. Jayavardhan.

...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: सुदीप जी, क्या आप कुछ कहना चाहते हैं?

â€¦(*व्यवधान*)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Madam, we still say that we are totally in favour a discussion, which should takes place on the floor of the House.

HON. SPEAKER: Let us start discussion.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : But we want discussion on Adjournment Motion...(*Interruptions*) Why are you not allowing it? Why is the Government not agreeing to it? It had happened in the Rajya Sabha. Why can it not happen in the Lok Sabha?...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: मेरा कहना यही है कि आपके ही लोग शून्य काल में कुछ कहना चाहते हैं। Let them make their submissions.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Why is the Government not ready to discuss it under the Adjournment Motion?...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I am sorry, मैंने अपनी रूलिंग दे दी है। आप अगर चर्चा करना चाहते हैं, they are agreeing for it. मगर दल्ले-गुल्ले में ऐसा नहीं हो सकता।

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Madam, on the fishermen's issue raised by our hon. MP from Tamil Nadu, I want to assure him that the Government of India is very much concerned about the

