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Title: Issue regarding killing of fisherman by Sri Lankan Navy off the coast of Tamil Nadu.

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): Madam Speaker, I have given a notice of Adjournment Motion on the issue of killing of fisherman by Sri Lankan Navy off the coast of Tamil Nadu, which you have disallowed now.

Madam, I wish to bring to your kind notice and to the notice of this august House, an extremely serious and disturbing incident that occurred on the 6th of March, wherein a young innocent Tamil fisherman, Mr. Bristo, belonging to Rameswaram had been shot dead by Sri Lankan Navy and four others had also sustained grievous injuries.

Madam, in this unfortunate incident, the Sri Lankan Navy opened fire at a group of fishermen which was fishing in the traditional waters between Danushkodi and Katchatheevu. After his incident, the fishing community of Tamil Nadu is in a state of rude shock. We expect the Government of India to act swiftly and strongly.

Madam, I would also like to point out that attacks on Tamil fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy are going on unabated and shockingly, shooting incidents have increased in the recent past. It is pertinent to mention that during the peace talks held between the officials and fishermen from both countries, in Chennai and also in New Delhi, a broad consensus was reached that the fishermen will not be fired at, but that consensus is not being adhered to and there have been many violations of late.

Moreover, during the past one week alone, a total of about 50 fishermen have been arrested and their fishing gears and all other equipments have been taken away by the Sri Lankan Navy, entirely jeopardizing their livelihood.

We have been raising this matter inside and outside Parliament, time and again, but to no avail. In this connection, our late revered Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Amma, had written many letters to the hon. Prime Minister, drawing his attention to this vexed issue and also to retrieve Katchatheevu which will give a permanent solution to this problem, but it is still elusive.

Now, hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, *thiru* Edapaddi K. Palaniswami also has written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister as late as on 3rd March, 2017 in this regard. Again, on 7th March, 2017, he has written another letter to the hon. Prime Minister about this specific incident.

Hence, Madam, I strongly urge upon the Government, through you, to kindly take immediate and effective action to ensure that the lives and properties of fishermen are protected and that such incidents are not allowed to recur.

Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Mallikarjun Kharge,

Shri K.C. Venugopal,

Shri P.K. Biju,

Shri Jose K. Mani,

Dr. Shashi Tharoor,

Dr. A. Sampath,

Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher,

Shri N.K. Premachandran,

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra,

Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena and

Adv. Joice George are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. P. Venugopal.

SHRI V. ELUMALAI (ARANI): Madam Speaker, a cold-blooded, inhuman, horrific, illegal and barbaric killing of a young Indian fisherman happened on the 6th of March, 2017. This is an inhuman and cruel act of Sri Lankan Navy. I strongly condemn the frequent atrocities done by the Sri Lankan Navy against the Indian fishermen in the southern coasts of Tamil Nadu.

The Sri Lankan Navy has been frequently attacking the Indian fishermen who engage in fishing in their traditional waters of Bay of Bengal. In the last one week alone, 50 fishermen were arrested and their fishing nets and boats were seized.

In 2014 and 2016, our beloved leaders *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* had submitted memorandums to the hon. Prime Minister to ensure the safety of fishermen from Tamil Nadu and to retrieve Katchatheevu from Sri Lanka, but till date, the Indian Government has not taken any proper action regarding this.

I urge upon the Prime Minister to personally intervene in this issue and use all possible means and power to curb the unacceptable aggressive actions of Sri Lankan Navy in the Palk Bay and to make serious efforts to retrieve Katchatheevu Island from Sri Lanka to provide a permanent solution to this issue.

Thank you.