

**Dr.S.Vijayakumar, IAS.,  
Secretary to Government.**



**Animal Husbandry,  
Dairying & Fisheries  
Department  
Secretariat,  
Chennai -600 009.**

**Tel: Off:044-2567 2937  
Fax: 044-2567 7590**

**Letter No.981/FS-6/2015, dated:4.2.2015**

Dear Thiru Sinha,

**Sub:** Release of boats of fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu which are in the custody of Sri Lankan authorities -Reg.

**Ref:** From the Joint Secretary(SM&IOR), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India letter No:153/JS(SM&IOR)/2015 dated:19.1.2015

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I invite your attention to the letter of the Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, cited above. The Joint Secretary, MEA has requested that the Government of Tamil Nadu may get in touch with the High Commission of India regarding the release of the 81 boats of fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu which are in the custody of the Sri Lankan authorities. The Joint Secretary, MEA, has pointed out that it was indicated by the Sri Lankan side that the owners of the boats should file applications with the Sri Lankan authorities for the release of the boats.

I request you to clarify the procedure by which the owners of the apprehended boats can obtain the quick release of their boats. You are also aware that, on earlier occasions, the release of boats was made simultaneously with the release of fishermen in order to ensure that their livelihood was not affected. The procedure of filing claims is not in vogue.

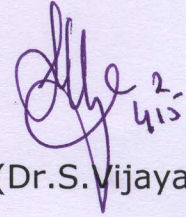
As you are aware, the Government of Tamil Nadu has been repeatedly taking up the issue of release of the boats of our fishermen which are in the custody of the Sri Lankan authorities. It is reported that these boats which have been berthed precariously in the Sri Lankan

waters have suffered great damage. Therefore, there is an urgent need to ensure that the boats are returned to the fishermen expeditiously.

I also request you to take up the issue of return of the boats of the Tamil Nadu fishermen through the highest diplomatic channels in Sri Lanka in order to ensure the early release of the fishing boats of Tamil Nadu fishermen in Sri Lankan custody.

*With kind regards,*

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Dr. S. Vijayakumar', with the date '2/4/15' written below it.

(Dr.S.Vijayakumar)

To

**Shri Y.K.Sinha,**  
High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka,  
Colombo, Sri Lanka.