



SECRETARIAT
CHENNAI - 600 009

Date.....

M. KARUNANIDHI
CHIEF MINISTER

D.O.No.7716 /CM /FSIII/2008 Dated : 7 -9-2008

Dear P.M.,

I invite your kind attention to my D.O. letters sent to you wherein I had repeatedly appealed to you to safeguard the interests of the Tamilnadu Fishermen against the indiscriminate shooting attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy. I had also explained to you in person about the anguish of the Tamilnadu fishermen community on the repeated attacks on them by the Sri Lankan Navy.

In spite of the assurances given by the Government of India, the fishermen of the State feel insecure and are reluctant to carry out fishing in the Indian seas, for the fear of attack by Sri Lankan Navy without any warning. It would not be out of context to mention that every time a shooting incident or apprehension of Indian fishermen takes place near the IMBL, the Sri Lankan Navy immediately denies the occurrence of such incident.

Statistics show that from the year January 2006 to till date , 27 incidents of shooting of Tamilnadu fishermen by Sri Lankan have taken place wherein 8 people were killed and 24 fishermen injured. The backgrounds of all the fishermen dead or injured reveal them to be bonafide innocent fishermen. Likewise the apprehension of Indian fishermen in this period is 342.

Though the issue of harassment and shooting of Indian fishermen has been taken to the notice of the Sri Lankan Government for exercising control on the Sri Lankan Navy in the recent SAARC summit by you with the President of Sri Lanka, immediately after the summit, 10 fishermen of Nagapattinam area were apprehended on 9/8/2008 and shooting of fishermen has taken place on 4/9/2008 resulting in the injury of one fishermen in Nagapattinam area.

The strong protests of the Government of Tamilnadu with the Deputy High Commission of Sri Lanka at Chennai and that of the Government of India with the Sri Lankan Government on the increasing number of such incidents have not become fruitful. The incidents of harassment continues unabated, and number of fishermen who venture into the sea for fishing have been continuously complaining about the differential and the inhuman treatment meted out to them by the Sri Lankan Navy.

A shooting incident on Nagapattinam fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy has happened recently on 4/9/2008 near the Sethusamudram project canal at Kodiakarai in Nagapattinam district in which one fisherman was injured and admitted in the Thanjavur Medical Hospital for treatment.

It is needless to say that the Sri Lankan Navy does not reciprocate the goodwill shown by Indian Coast Guard and Navy in dealing with Sri Lankan fishermen apprehended for crossing the IMBL and fishing in Indian waters. The Sri Lankan Navy continues to open fire recklessly without issuing any warning resulting in injury and even death of Indian fishermen in the seas which is against the International Laws of the Sea.

I therefore request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to kindly take up the issue with the Sri Lankan Government and request to instruct their Navy to exercise constraint and refrain from shooting innocent Indian fishermen.

M. Karunanidhi

Yours sincerely,

M. Karunanidhi

(M. KARUNANIDHI)

To

Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,
Government of India,
New Delhi - 110001.

மாண்புமிகு, இயக்குநர்.
மாண்புமிகு, மக்கள் தொடர்புத் துறை,
கலைமைச் செயலகம், சென்னை-8.