

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. Letter dated 2.10.2015 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is reproduced below:

"I am constrained to write to you yet again to bring to your notice one more incident of apprehension of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy. In this latest incident, 7 fishermen along with their boat who set out for fishing from Nagapattinam fishing base in Nagapattinam District have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on the evening of 1.10.2015 and taken to Kankesanthurai, Sri Lanka.

This latest belligerent act of the Sri Lankan Navy perpetrated on innocent and unarmed Indian fishermen adds to the immense frustration that has built up among the fishermen community of Tamil Nadu. These repeated apprehensions of our innocent fishermen are done with a motive to intimidate and prevent our fishermen from venturing into their traditional fishing waters in the Palk Bay which has always been a part of the traditional fishing area of our fishermen.

My Government strongly believes that the unconstitutional Indo-Sri Lankan Agreements of 1974 and 1976 should be nullified and the traditional rights of our fishermen restored at the earliest. I would like to once again reiterate that Government of India should not treat the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) with Sri Lanka as a settled question as the constitutionality of the 1974 and 1976 agreements have been challenged on extremely valid and legal grounds in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. I had personally filed W.P. (Civil) No.561/2008, in which the Government of Tamil Nadu had also subsequently impleaded itself. The main prayer before the Supreme Court is to declare the 1974 and 1976 agreements as null and void in the absence of the required mandatory Constitutional amendment, and to retrieve Katchatheevu for India.

I request you to take immediate action through diplomatic channels to secure the release of our 7 Indian fishermen and their fishing boat apprehended on 1.10.2015 as well as the release of the 28 fishermen and 31 fishing boats which are still in Sri Lankan custody and arrange for their immediate repatriation.

May I request your immediate personal intervention in this matter?"
