

**PRESS RELEASE**

Text of the D.O. letter dated 4.7.2012 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Dr.Manmohan Singh**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is reproduced below: -

"I invite your kind attention to my letter dated 28.6.2012, wherein I have sought your intervention in preventing the incidents of harassment of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy. I am deeply pained to bring to your notice two more incidents of apprehension of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy on 2.7.2012.

One vallam with 3 fishermen went fishing from Mukundarayachathiram fishing base in Rameswaram on 29.6.2012. The above vallam and the crew are reported to have been arrested near Kalpiti Island by the Sri Lankan Navy, alleging transportation of tobacco products. The fishermen and crew were reportedly taken to Neer-Colombo for further enquiry.

In another incident, one mechanized fishing boat with 5 crew members which went fishing from Rameswaram base got grounded in the sea near Katchatheevu. A search boat with 5 crew members was sent to locate and tow the grounded boat back to the fishing base. It has been reported that both the boats with all the 10 crew members onboard have been detained by the Sri Lankan Navy and they have been lodged in a Sri Lankan Jail.

You are aware that already 5 Rameswaram fishermen are languishing in Sri Lankan jails due to a fabricated case since 29.11.2011. The arrest of 13 more Rameswaram fishermen with their 3 boats has further confirmed the unrelenting, harsh attitude of the Sri Lankan Navy towards our Tamil Nadu fishermen who seek to eke out their livelihood by fishing in the traditional Palk Bay waters.

I, therefore, request you to kindly take up the issue with the Sri Lankan Government and arrange for the immediate release of all the fishermen of Rameswaram arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy."

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