

P.N. No. 70

Date:07.03.2013

Text of the D.O.letter dated 7.3.2013 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 wish to bring to your notice a serious and worrisome incident of firing by Sri Lankan Naval Personnel on the fishermen of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Two Mechanised boats of Karaikal (Puducherry State) IND-PY-PK-MM-362 and IND-PY-PK-MM-685 with a total of 14 crew members, 10 from Karaikkal and 4 from Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu, sailed on 2.3.2013 for conducting multiday fishing. While they were engaged in fishing in the sea South East of the Kodiakkarai area of Tamil Nadu, Sri Lankan Naval personnel, who were there in the vicinity, fired at their boats on the night of 6.3.2013, resulting in injury to one fisherman Thiru Shenbagam belonging to Karaikkal District of Puducherry. The above injured fisherman was brought back by the other fishermen in their own fishing boats and has been presently admitted to the Government Hospital in Nagapattinam District of Tamil Nadu.

I wish to point out with great concern that the Sri Lankan Naval personnel have once again started committing atrocities against the innocent Tamil Nadu fishermen. You are already aware that 16 fishermen of Thoothukudi who were fishing in the Gulf of Mannar area were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy and are presently in judicial custody in Sri Lanka. Over and above that, this latest incident of firing by the Sri Lankan Navy clearly indicates that the Sri Lankan Navy wants to create an atmosphere of panic, fear and tension amidst the fishermen of Tamil Nadu who seek to eke out their livelihood peacefully.

The above incident should also be viewed against the background of the massive protests by the Tamil Nadu Members of Parliament in the Indian Parliament against the atrocities of Sri Lanka against the Sri Lankan Tamilians and the demand to take stern action against the Sri Lankan Government for its human rights violations in International Fora.

The incidents of arrests of fishermen and the recent firing should be viewed as an indirect attempt to intimidate the Government of India and browbeat it into not raising its voice against Sri Lankan atrocities on innocent Sri Lankan Tamilians in the International fora, which is highly unacceptable.

The Government of India should not be a silent spectator. The Sri Lankan Government should be advised to desist from using force against our innocent Indian fishermen who have been fishing in their traditional fishing areas for centuries.

I request urgent and stern action by the Government of India with regard to the above incidents.

Issued by Director, Information & Public Relations, Chennai-9
Date: 7.3.2013