

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 8.7.2020 of Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, addressed to Thiru. Pinarayi Vijayan, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala:

I would like to bring to your kind notice that about 350 mechanized fishing boats and 750 traditional boats belonging to Kanniyakumari district fishermen are presently berthed in various fishing harbour / fish landing centres of Kerala State. In view of COVID-19 pandemic, nationwide lock down was announced by the Government and various travel restrictions were enforced to contain the spread of virus.

Due to this, Tamil Nadu fishermen returned to their home towns located in Kanniyakumari district leaving behind their fishing boats in various fishing harbours / landing centres of Kerala State. In view of lockdown restrictions, these fishermen from Kanniyakumari district could neither go to Kerala to look after the maintenance of their boats, nor resume their fishing activities. There are around 25,000 fishermen families of Kanniyakumari district who have lost their livelihood for the past 3 months.

Various fishermen associations of Kanniyakumari district have requested the Government of Tamil Nadu to arrange for entry passes to enter Kerala State, to take up maintenance of their fishing boats immediately, so that they can resume fishing on 1.8.2020 onwards, after the ban period.

In this regard, I request you to issue necessary instructions to the appropriate authorities to issue entry passes, so as to allow the Kanniyakumari district fishermen into Kerala State and also permit them to resume fishing from 1st August 2020 onwards, after the completion of the fishing ban period in the west coast of our country.

Issued by: Director of Information and Public Relations, Chennai-9.