

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. Letter dated 11.12.2014 addressed by Thiru O. Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is reproduced below:

"I wish to bring to your notice the plight of 24 fishermen from Kanniyakumari District in Tamil Nadu who were arrested by the Bangladesh Navy on 9.12.2014.

It is reported that the 24 fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu engaged as fishing labourers on a share basis, went for deep sea fishing in three boats from Bettuagad near Calcutta in West Bengal on 17th November, 2014. These 24 innocent fishermen have been arrested by the Bangladesh Navy for allegedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line on 9.12.2014.

These innocent fishermen are the sole breadwinners of their families and engage in deep sea fishing in order to eke out a meagre livelihood. Their arrest and detention will severely affect their families and dependants in Tamil Nadu.

Hence I request you to kindly direct the officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to coordinate with the High Commission of India, in Dhaka, Bangladesh and intervene at the diplomatic level to secure the immediate release of these 24 poor fishermen from Tamil Nadu."

* * * * *

Issued by : DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai – 9.

Dated : 11.12.2014