

Text of the D.O. letter dated 20.5.2013 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Dr. Manmohan Singh**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is reproduced below:

"I would like to inform you that the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has passed a unanimous Resolution dated 3.5.2013 regarding the retrieval of Katchatheevu back to India. A copy of the Resolution is enclosed herewith.

In this connection I would like to recall that the 1974 Agreement signed between India and Sri Lanka by Smt. Indira Gandhi and Smt. Sirimavo R.D. Bandaranaike on 26-6-1974 had determined Katchatheevu as a part of Sri Lanka, and the islet was ceded by the Government of India **unilaterally** to Sri Lanka, without obtaining the approval of both Houses of Parliament for a Constitutional amendment in this regard. **The stand of the Government of Tamil Nadu is that Katchatheevu has always been a part of India, geographically, culturally and historically and needs to be retrieved back, keeping in view the livelihood interests and security of thousands of Indian fishermen.**

As the incidents of shooting, attacks against and harassment of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy continued unabated, I had, in my personal capacity, as General Secretary of the AIADMK, filed a W.P. (Civil) No.561/2008, before the Supreme Court of India in 2008 to consider the 1974 and 1976 Agreements, which have been the root cause for the untold misery of Tamil Nadu fishermen, as null and void in the absence of the mandatory Constitutional amendment required and to retrieve Katchatheevu back to India. The matter is under the consideration of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

After my Government assumed power in Tamil Nadu, in May 2011, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed another Resolution unanimously on 3.6.2011, to implead the Revenue Department of the State in the Writ Petition W.P. (Civil) No.561/2008, filed before the Supreme Court of India in 2008.

In the background of continued attacks on the fishermen of Tamil Nadu and keeping in view concerns about the safety and security of the fishermen, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a Resolution on 3.5.2013 stating that, in view of the legal invalidity of the 1974 and 1976 Agreements, the Government of India should take steps to retrieve back Katchatheevu and its surrounding areas.

I, therefore, request you once again to kindly take urgent measures to get back Katchatheevu and the surrounding areas from Sri Lanka. Further, the IMBL needs to be redrawn after the retrieval of Katchatheevu, which will enable our fishermen to carry on fishing in their traditional fishing waters without concerns of safety and security."

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

Date: 21.5.2013.

**Copy of Resolution passed in the Tamil Nadu
Legislative Assembly on 3.5.2013.**

RESOLUTION

"Considering the continuing incidents of gruesome attacks, harassment and apprehension of Tamil Nadu fishermen; in view of the legal invalidity of the ceding of Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka as per the verdict given by the Supreme Court of India in the Berubari case; considering the need to put an end to the continuing threat to the livelihood of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy and the need to bring a permanent solution to this issue, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Resolves to urge the Government of India to take immediate steps to retrieve back Katchatheevu and its surrounding area ceded to Sri Lanka through the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement, and to bring these areas back under its jurisdiction".