

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to take steps to release Indian fisherman stranded in jails of Pakistan.

SHRI BELLANA CHANDRA SEKHAR (VIZIANAGARAM): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity.

This is an important issue of my Parliamentary Constituency, Vizianagaram. I would like to bring to your kind notice that fishermen of Vizianagaram, Srikakulam and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh State went on fishing expedition to Veraval of Gujarat State in August, 2018. After that, in the second week of November, 2018, from Gujarat harbour they left for catching fish. Due to lack of awareness of the sea boundaries, they inadvertently entered into the border of Pakistan.

The Coast Guard of Pakistan arrested them. Of them, 17 fishermen are from Machilisam of Srikakulam district, four are from Vizianagaram and the other four are from East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. They are put in jail in Pakistan.

Through you, Sir, I request the hon. Minister for External Affairs to let us know the present status of these 25 fishermen. I also request the Government to get them released.

Sir, I request the hon. Minister of External Affairs to kindly extend every possible support to them and get them released as soon as possible.