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Title : Reported custody of Salvage Motor Tug Jupiter – 6 with ten Indian crew members by American Navy in Kenya.

DR. K.S. MANOJ Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a matter of urgent public importance, which I had raised during the Winter Session of Parliament. Since no action was taken by the Government, I am forced to raise it again.

Jupiter-6, an Indian Salvage Motor Tug, was missing together with its thirteen crew members of which ten crew members are Indian citizens. The incident occurred on 21st August, 2005 while this Tug was sailing Walvis Bay for India *via* Port Louis, Mauritius. Jupiter-6 was towing a decommissioned bulk carrier to an Indian scrap yard. But after leaving Walvis Bay at the end of August, the Tug with its 13 crew members disappeared. The bulk carrier was found drifting in the Indian Ocean at the end of September. On 30th November, 2005, this issue was raised by me on the floor of this august House during 'Zero Hour'. However, it is seen that no serious attempt had been made by the Ministry concerned to find out the crew members. As per the information available from the family sources, which is yet to be confirmed, the Tug and the crew members are in the custody of the American Navy in Kenya. The family members of Jose Mathew is very anxious to know the truth. His mother aged 78 years and his wife and two children are in a pitiful condition after Jose went missing.

So, I urge upon the Government to intervene in this case and urgent action may be taken for a detailed inquiry in this regard to find out the vessel and the crew members immediately.

DR. P.P. KOYA (LAKSHADWEEP): Sir, I associate myself with what he has stated.