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Title : Reported capture of Indian citizens by Myanmar Army at Manipur-Myanmar border.

SHRI MANI CHARENAMAI (OUTER MANIPUR): Sir, on 6th May, 2006, twenty-one innocent villagers belonging to Zomi community of Churachandpur District of Manipur were arrested by the Myanmar army and held captive in Myanmar till today. Areas in Manipur and Myanmar on either side of the border are inhabited by the people belonging to the same Zomi community. Local tribal people living in the border areas used to cross over to either sides of the border in search of their livelihood without any disturbances from any quarter as they used to return to their respective homes on daily basis [\[KMR95\]](#).

Sir, the arrested people are innocent villagers of Churachandpur district and they are languishing in the Myanmar jail where the treatment of the jail inmates is reported to be very cruel. It is reported that Myanmar jail does not serve food to the inmates and the inmates have to arrange food for themselves which is practically impossible.

Sir, I have appraised both the Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister of External Affairs about this matter in writing on 26th June, 2006. However, no positive action has resulted so far.

I, therefore, urge upon this august House to impress upon the hon. Minister for External Affairs and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to take up the matter with the Myanmar Government for immediate release of the 21 innocent people on humanitarian grounds.