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Title: Need to trace missing ships M.V. Rezzak, M. V. Jupiter 6 and M.T. Fantasy-I with seamen from Minicoy Islands aboard-laid.

SHRI HAMDULLAH SAYEED (LAKSHADWEEP): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government towards a Cargo ship M.V. Rezzak carrying steel billets from Russia to Turkey alongwith 25 Indian crew aboard missing since 18 February, 2008. This ship belonged to the mini island of Minicoy. Two years back also, a ship named M.V. JUPITER 6 also went missing with 4 Minicoy seamen among others on board. During the month of 2009 another ship named M.T. FANTASY I was also reported missing on board with seamen from Minicoy. There is feeling among the islanders that because of its remoteness and smallness these tragedies have failed to evoke the sympathy, response and reaction from the authority. There has been no effective search conducted for the missing ships and no hectic operations conducted through the diplomatic channels. There has been no action to compensate the bereaving families.

I would request the Central Government to dispel this impression of the islanders and respond positively by taking immediate action for a proper search and rescue operation by the Turkish and Russian Coast Guard using the International diplomatic channels. It should also be ascertained as to how a ship could sink without transmitting distress signal and without any debris being found and how the ships manned by crew recruited by the same agency viz. CMR Shipping Management Mumbai went missing and what was the role of shipping agency and whether there is an involvement of international mafia in the missing of ships for claiming huge insurance money or it is an act of Pirates. I would request the Central Government to take immediate action to announce an interim compensation of Rs. 10 Lakhs to the families of each of the seamen as they were all very young, married and sole bread-earners of their families.