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Title : Need to take steps for release of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu who are languishing in prison of Qatar for trespassing international territorial waters.

SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON (KANYAKUMARI): The fishermen of Kanyakumari Constituency, Tamil Nadu are imprisoned in prisons in Qatar for unauthorisedly entering into the territorial waters of Qatar Nation.

More than 10,000 fishermen from Kanyakumari District are engaged in fishing in Gulf Countries and more than 25,000 fishermen from Kanyakumari district are involved in migrant fishing. Recently 46 Indian fishermen of Tamil Nadu State were arrested by Qatari authorities and a group of 28 fishermen from Saudi Arabia were sentenced to a two-year jail term on 27-10-2010 by a local court for intruding into Qatar's territorial waters. Cases of other 18 Indian fishermen of Tamil Nadu are also under investigation. The Indian fishermen in the Qatar Prison must be cared well by providing them good food. The family members of all Indian fishermen are deeply anguished as they have no one to help them.

The judgment of two-year imprisonment is really unfair. Due to currents of water, sometimes the fishing boats happened to cross the territorial water of the country. These fishermen are innocents and genuine fishermen of our Nation. It all happened without their knowledge as they are not scientifically aware of the exact water boundaries.

Hence, I urge the Government of India and the concerned Ministries to take immediate and necessary steps by sending a team for holding a talk with the Government of Qatar for the release of all forty-six Indian Fishermen of Tamil Nadu State from prisons in Qatar.