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Title: Regarding attack and arrest of fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy.

SHRI K. SHIVKUMAR ALIAS J.K. RITHEESH (RAMANATHAPURAM): Sir, in Tamil Nadu, almost every day attack on fishermen is the headline news in all the newspapers and television. This is not the first or second incident in my constituency. It is happening since 1983.

On 28th November, five fishermen were arrested by Sri Lankan Navy and lodged in a prison in Jaffna on charges of drug smuggling. On 13th December, again five fishermen were arrested by Sri Lankan Navy and they released them on 15th December. But the five fishermen arrested on 28th November have not been released till now. The fishermen are observing indefinite hunger strike in Rameswaram demanding the release of the five fishermen.

Usually, Sri Lankan Navy used to charge them for crossing the border but quite recently, they have started booking them in drug smuggling cases and started humiliating them. Moreover, I can assure that they would have never been indulging in such activities.

Almost everyday, the Sri Lankan Navy is brutally attacking our fishermen capturing, damaging their boats, torturing, humiliating and harassing them violently. I have sent several fax messages and letters repeatedly on the fishermen issue to the hon. Minister for External Affairs seeking a permanent solution of this problem.

Sir, I expect a concrete and solid solution for this problem from the UPA Government.