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Title: Need for steps to bring back 37 Indians from Kerala and Tamil Nadu from Srilankan Jails.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Madam, I would like to place before this House and draw the attention of the concerned Minister with regard to some pathetic conditions of some Indian citizens in Sri Lankan jails.

There are about 37 Indian citizens in Sri Lankan jails. These 37 Indian citizens belong to Kerala and Tamil Nadu. They are in Sri Lankan jails for about 17 years. I think they went there in search of employment but they were cheated there and false cases had been framed against them. Now, they are completing about 17 years in jails there.

They have given a number of representations to the Prime Minister of India and concerned Ministers. India is the signatory of the SAARC countries. According to the Agreement made among the SAARC countries, the prisoners can be handed over to their countries. It is, in that context, that they again written to the concerned Ministers. Even, the concerned Ministers promised that they would be taken back but no action has been taken. The Consulate has also informed that they have written to the Government of India and Government of India has written to the Chief Ministers of Kerala and Tamil Nadu also. It is because they have to be sent to the jails of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. They belong to these States.

At least, it can be considered on humanitarian grounds as they have already completed about 17 years in jails, the Government can take the decision on the basis of SAARC Agreement.

So, I would like to request the Government to take immediate action on humanitarian grounds.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri M.B. Rajesh and Shri P.K. Biju may be allowed to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri P. Karunakaran.