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Title: Regarding reported arrest of five fishermen by the Srilankan Navy.

SHRI K. SHIVKUMAR ALIAS J.K. RITHEESH (RAMANATHAPURAM): Respected Chairman, Sir, in Tamil Nadu, almost every day, the fishermen's issue is the headline news in all newspapers and TV. This is not a first or second incident; it is happening since 1983. After I became MP, I have represented the same issue in this august House several times.

On November 28, five fishermen were arrested by Sri Lankan Navy and they booked them on alleged drug smuggling cases. Yet they have not been released. Purposely the Sri Lankan Navy booked the case against them. They are not smugglers at all. What is the inner motive of the Sri Lankan Government? Except fishing, they do not know anything.

Every day the affected families of the fishermen are doing hunger strike and dharnas in Rameshwaram area. I could not answer to the fishermen's families. The Government should take immediate steps to release the five fishermen without any further delay.

20.00 hrs

Sir, while it is so, on 23rd April, 2012, I read in the newspaper that a Sri Lankan Minister Mr. Douglas Devananda has threatened to take some 1,000 boats and 5,000 fishermen by sea to Rameswaram to protest against our Indian fishermen. The Minister's statement has provoked the Rameswaram fishermen.

Sir, I am expressing the issue with broken heart. Somehow we should stop the atrocities of the Sri Lankan Navy and sort out the issue immediately.