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Title: Need to take steps for release of Indian fishermen who are under the custody of Iranian Coastguard in Kish Island in Iran since 10th October, 2012.

SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON (KANYAKUMARI): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise an important issue.

I would like to draw the kind attention of our Union Government to the arrest of Indian fishermen who are under the custody of Iranian Coastguard in Kish Island in Iran since 10th October, 2012. Though the matter has already been communicated to the concerned Ministries several times, the fishermen have not yet been released. The Embassy of India is struggling to get Consular access. But till today, I am sad to say that our nation is unable to get Consular access to meet out the needs of our detained fishermen. On 10th October, 2012, 29 Indian fishermen who were employed in Qatar and fishing in the Qatar territorial waters and 27 Indian fishermen who were employed in Dubai and fishing in Dubai territorial waters were arrested by the Iranian Coastguard for the reason that they have entered into Iran border. All these fishermen were detained in the Kish Island in Iran for more than 50 days without proper food, water and medicines. Among them, 46 fishermen are from Kanyakumari district of my constituency in Tamil Nadu and 10 fishermen are from Trivandrum, Kerala.

The fishermen who were engaged in fishing happened to cross the border due to bad weather and they did not intentionally enter into the territorial waters of Iran. The above-said Indian fishermen have gone to Gulf from poor financial background with great expectations. But fate made their situation miserable. It is informed that the Iranian authorities had requested for the release of four Iranian sailors detained in Lakshadweep for over two years since October, 2010 linking the release of our fishermen from Iran. The Indian Embassy in Iran has informed me that two groups of 13 and 11 fishermen were released but the release has not yet been confirmed by the fishermen. Our Government may look into the matter of Iranian sailors too so as to release all our fishermen from Iran.

The families of the arrested fishermen completely depend on their income. But, as the fishermen are under detention, the families are struggling to run their daily life since their arrest on 10th October, 2012. The entire families are afraid of the welfare of the detained fishermen.

Sir, hence I request the Union Government to intervene in this matter and take immediate action for the release and repatriation of Indian fishermen from Iran.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri R. Thamaraiselvan is allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shrimati J. Helen Davidson.

The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 a.m.

18.35 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock

on Wednesday, December 5, 2012/ Agrahayana 14, 1934 (Saka).

* Not recorded.

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

* Not recorded.

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Bengali.

* Not recorded.

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**Not recorded as ordered by the chair.

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